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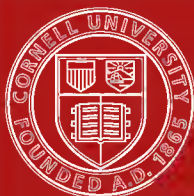
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FIFTH GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS.



BY

*JULIA DUNCAN KIRBY.*



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JOSEPH DUNCAN.











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*Joseph Duncan*







FERGUS' HISTORICAL SERIES, No. 29.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

JOSEPH DUNCAN,

FIFTH GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS.

READ BEFORE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF JACKSONVILLE, ILL.,

MAY 7, 1885.

BY

JULIA DUNCAN KIRBY.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:

FERGUS PRINTING COMPANY.

1888.

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## PREFACE.

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IF the reader should find mentioned in the following sketch many trivial incidents and numerous items of only local interest, and but slightly connected with the subject, let him bear in mind the fact that this paper was prepared for, and read to, a small audience of friends, most of whom were personally acquainted with Gov. Duncan and his family, and had lived for years as their neighbors, and by whom every local allusion was understood.

Although the paper was not prepared for publication, and has been committed to print only at the request of relatives and too partial friends, yet it is thought that the student of Illinois history may be pleased to learn Gov. Duncan's views in regard to State Banks, Internal Improvements, the Illinois-and-Michigan Canal, and other questions of great importance in the early history of the State; and that his opinions in regard to Slavery, the suspension of the United-States Bank, Civil Service, and Temperance will be found worthy of consideration by those interested in the history of the Nation.

JACKSONVILLE, ILL., Feb. 10, 1888.



# GOV. JOSEPH DUNCAN.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
JACKSONVILLE:

WHEN requested by you to prepare a sketch of the "Life and Labors of Joseph Duncan," I felt that I could not undertake it.

History and all sketches, historical or biographical, should be both accurate and impartial, and there are others in this Society who have stood nearer the times in which he lived, and are free from any bias or prejudice, besides possessing high literary taste and a ready pen, to whom more appropriately might have been committed the task.

It might be supposed that the daughter of the subject of this sketch, would have peculiar facilities for obtaining the facts necessary for such an article, but to a very limited extent only, is this the case. Unfortunately, some years ago, all the political papers, pamphlets, and most of the letters which were in the possession of his family, and were supposed to contain valuable information in regard to either his public or private life, were sent to the Chicago Historical Society at the request of friends and contemporaries of his, who proposed to prepare and publish a sketch of his life for that Society. All these papers were destroyed before the work proposed had been accomplished, in the great fire of Chicago, Oct. 8-9, 1871.

Notwithstanding a feeling of delicacy in the matter, I have undertaken to comply with your request, and, though deeply conscious of the imperfections and incompleteness of my sketch, I yet hope I shall be able to present to you a few facts in the

life of one who has not been an unimportant actor in the early history of Illinois, the State of his adoption, the State that did so much for him, and of which he was so justly proud.

Joseph Duncan's native State was Kentucky, and, as the character and tastes of man are largely moulded and directed by the environments and influences surrounding his youth, the following description of life in Kentucky at that day, from the pen of one of our honored citizens, may not be inappropriate:

"For ages before the white man descended the western slope of the Alleghanies, what is now known as the State of Kentucky constituted the favorite hunting-ground of different Indian tribes. Then, through forest and canebrake, over hills, mountains and valleys, and across rapid rivers, they chased the elk and the buffalo, and hunted the fierce bear and the stealthy, crouching panther. There the war-dance was often celebrated, and the deep forest reëchoed the startling war-whoops, as infuriated tribes met in the fierce conflict of savage warfare.

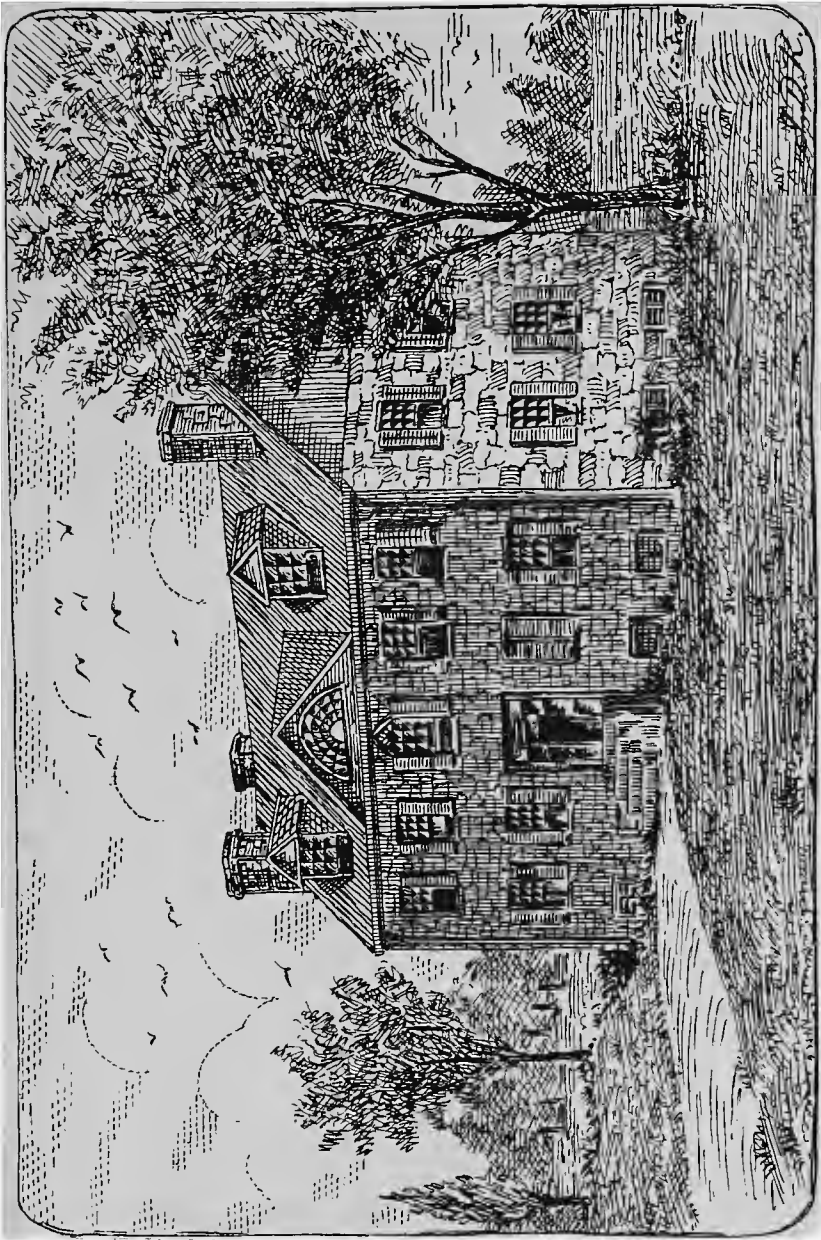
"These hills and mountains, the Indians felt they owned, and when the paleface essayed to occupy them, the red man disputed every inch of ground, and the adventurous prisoner met his death by tomahawk or scalping-knife. The first settlers, as a matter of self-preservation, lived in fortified stations, and relied for support upon the chase and the stream and such patches of corn as they could cultivate under the immediate protection of the forts. Every adventurer to these wild and fascinating scenes was welcomed as a brother by those who had preceded him. His presence added additional strength to the fort, and so he was admitted to full and equal enjoyment of their scanty means of subsistence.

"Subject at any time to savage incursions, the inhabitants of the different stations held themselves always ready to fly to the relief of any one upon whom the fury of the red man was about to descend. As the immigrants multiplied, log-cabins were built by the more daring near the fortified stations. The plowman went to the field with his butcher-knife in his belt and his rifle on his shoulder. If the approach of the foe was discovered in









BIRTHPLACE OF GOV. JOSEPH DUNCAN, PARIS, KENTUCKY.



time, the families fled to the fort for protection and common defence; but too often the first notice that the stealthy enemy was in the settlement was the light blazing up from the cabin of some murdered family."

Distinguished among the early settlers of Kentucky for intelligence and wisdom in counsel and for bravery in repelling the incursions of the Indians was Maj. Joseph Duncan, of Scotch ancestry; who, when at length the settlement enjoyed peace and safety, returned to his native state, Virginia, and soon after married a lady of culture and refinement from Pennsylvania. In 1790, he removed with his family from Virginia to Kentucky, and on Feb. 22, 1794, his son, Joseph Duncan, the subject of this sketch, was born, in Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky. The large, old-fashioned stone-house, which was the family residence and place of his birth, still stands in that city.

The thrilling narratives of Indian warfare to which, as a child, he listened as they fell from the lips of his father and his father's friends while gathered around the family fireside, and the warm friendships and generous hospitality daily witnessed in his home, doubtless contributed much to the formation of his character as a man, which was distinguished for the courage, heartiness, and generosity, characteristics of the better elements of pioneer life.

Maj. Duncan died in 1806, when Joseph was but twelve years of age. There were six children in the family, Mathew and James being older, Polly Ann, Thomas, and John being younger than Joseph.

In 1809, three years after his father's death, his mother married Capt. Benjamin Moore of the regular army, who died in 1811. One son, Benjamin Duncan Moore, was the fruit of their marriage, who entered the navy, where he served four years, and in 1833, entered the army and was killed in the Mexican War, Dec. 6, 1846, at San Pascual, Cal., holding at the time the rank of captain of First Dragoons, U.S.A. He left one son, Mathew Moore, now in the western army.

In September, 1815, shortly after attaining the age of twenty-one, Joseph Duncan was appointed guardian of his sister and his

two younger brothers. Capt. Mathew Duncan, the eldest son, was educated at Yale College, and after completing his education and returning to his native State, he, for a time, edited a paper in Russellville, Ky., called *The Mirror*. On removing to Illinois, in 1814, he edited and published at Kaskaskia *The Illinois Herald*, the first newspaper published in Illinois. In December, 1814, he published the first book or pamphlet that was published in the State. In June, 1815, he published the first volume of what is known as "Pope's Digest." In 1817, Mathew Duncan, sold his paper to Daniel P. Cook and Robert Blackwell. He abandoned journalism and entered the army, was made captain of Rangers, Oct. 4, 1832; in 1833, was made captain of the First Dragoons. He resigned after four years' service and engaged in business in Shelbyville, Ill., where he died Jan. 16, 1844, only a few hours after Gov. Duncan, neither knowing of the illness of the other. His wife died Jan. 11. This double affliction proved too great a shock to his aged mother, and in a few months she, too, passed away.

Mathew Duncan left one son, Gen. Thomas Duncan of the regular army, who died at Washington, D.C., Jan. 7, 1887. His son, Wilson Duncan, represents the family in the army as a lieutenant of infantry, married and stationed at Fort Sidney, Neb.

Gen. James M. Duncan, second brother of Joseph Duncan, graduated at Transylvania College, in Lexington, now merged in the State University. He was made captain of the Seventeenth Infantry, March 12, 1812. He returned home when the army was disbanded, May, 1814. On moving to Illinois, he settled in Vandalia, held the office of clerk of the supreme court while it held its sessions there, and, when the capital was removed to Springfield, Dec. 9, 1839, he removed with it. He afterward removed to Jacksonville, and engaged in business as a merchant. While residing there he was elected an elder in what was then known as the Old-School Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. He died in Berlin, Sangamon County, in 1856. He had five daughters, but only one, Mrs. Jane Snow, still survives.

Thomas Duncan, the third brother, was also a graduate of

Transylvania University. He studied law, settled and practised his profession at Nashville, Tenn., with success. He married Miss Jane Stoddard, sister of Mrs. James Bell. He had two children, a son and a daughter. He was accidentally killed at Iberville, La., while still a young man—1831.

John, the youngest brother, was a promising graduate of Rush Medical College of Philadelphia, but lost his life during the first year of his practice. A class-mate, writing of him, says: "John always stood at the head of his class, and was the handsomest man in the College."

Polly Ann, the only sister, was married when quite young to William Linn, a lawyer by profession, who was afterward appointed Receiver of Public Moneys at Vandalia. Judge William Thomas says: "He was a man of fine address, polished manners, and much culture, but of little principle. He became intemperate, neglected the duties of his office, and became a defaulter." Mrs. Linn was a brilliant woman, whose poems and drawings are family treasures.

In 1812, when the tocsin of war again sounded, and the stirring appeals of Henry Clay swept over the land and reverberated through the mountains, hills, and valleys of Kentucky, and kindled afresh the glowing patriotism of her young men, regiments of volunteers sprang forth, ready for the battle. Among these volunteers was Joseph Duncan, who, though only seventeen years of age, enlisted as a private in the Seventeenth regiment of the United-States Infantry, and, before he left Lexington, was promoted to the rank of ensign.

That he did not enlist without a knowledge of the hardships and privations which he would be called upon to endure is shown by a letter from a friend and neighbor, then on duty near the seat of war, received at his home in Paris, Ky. We quote the most of the letter, as giving an excellent picture of what "soldiering" was in those days:

"CAMP MIAMI, Dec. 21, 1812.

"DEAR DUNCAN: We shall leave this place on Thursday for the Rapids, notwithstanding our only means of transportation is cer-

tainly bad. We shall be compelled to carry our baggage on sleds drawn by ourselves, or wait until the river thaws out, and of that there is small probability. We have been without flour for twelve days and have subsisted on beef and pork.

"It has been a trying time for us. The Spartans never could have undergone more hardships and apparently with as much fortitude as the tender striplings from Kentucky, men that before this have never been out of the precincts of a mother's care. The Seventeenth is still without sufficient clothing to resist the northern blasts of Canada, but in this condition they seem rejoiced at the idea of going on to avenge our country's wrongs. We expect to meet with clothing and flour at the Rapids, and from there we shall march on to Detroit. In my opinion, I am sorry to inform you, that we shall be compelled to leave about two hundred sick at Fort Miami. I am aware of the impropriety of writing such letters from the army, but I know that you feel the same interest in the welfare of our country as myself. I therefore hope you will not divulge the contents of this letter where it may do harm, for although our sufferings are great, they are nothing in comparison to our forefathers'. Yet, should it be known, it might be difficult to obtain the force that we may need to accomplish our ends.

Yours truly,

PHILIP SHROVER."

Being a man of vigorous constitution, and stature above the average, of great muscular power, Ensign Duncan performed much hard service during the war, and was often in perils which severely tested his energy, tact, and courage, as well as his bodily powers. At one time he was the bearer of despatches from the interior to the Army of the Northwest. His route lay either through the pathless forests of the Black Swamp, or else along the trail of the army, which was infested by marauding parties of hostile savages, and in his way lay the river upon whose banks Col. William Crawford was burned at the stake by the infamous Simon Girty and his Indian associates in 1782.

Duncan, with an Indian guide, struck into the forest. Across



his course ran a small river, swollen by the freshets to a deep and rapid stream. His guide refused to cross. Ensign Duncan handed his papers to him and dashed into the flood and swam to the opposite shore. He called to his guide to follow, who still refused. Recrossing the stream, he again urged him to cross with him. Though well mounted, the guide had not the courage to enter the dangerous current. Taking his papers from him, Duncan for the third time crossed the torrent in safety. Alone and ignorant of the woods, he at once sought the trail of the army. Reaching it before nightfall, he followed it until about midnight, when, coming upon one of the block-houses built by the army on its march out, and being much fatigued, he determined to rest till morning.

He dismounted, fastened his horse, and entered the house, when he almost stumbled over the body of a man, stretched upon the floor. At once a savage yell rose from the prostrate man, which aroused a party of hostile Indians, who had taken possession of the block-house. Duncan, with ready presence of mind, at once threw a handful of small coin upon the hearth, and in a second the Indians had lighted with flint the dry grass which filled the rough fire-place and were scrambling over the floor, each striving to obtain the greatest share of the unexpected treasure. He thus gained a few moments of time, withdrew from the house, leaped into his saddle, and putting spurs to his horse, in the darkness eluded pursuit.

Probably the most noted achievement during the war was the part taken in the defence of Fort Stephenson. A detailed account of this action, taken from official reports, may perhaps be permitted here, not merely because of its influence upon the life and military reputation of Duncan, but also because of its decisive importance in the war. The course of the campaign on the Northwest frontier up to August 1, 1813, had thrown the main body of the American army under the immediate command of Gen. William Henry Harrison, in the rear of Fort Stephenson. The commanding general, upon assuming his position at Senecatown, placed Fort Stephenson under the command of Col. George

Croghan with orders that if the enemy approached with cannon, he should abandon the fort and fall back upon the main army at Senecatown. Fort Stephenson was at that time in an entirely defenceless state. It was a light stockade, flanked with block-houses, without a ditch or any other exterior defence, defended by between one hundred and thirty and one hundred and forty effective men, provided with one six-pounder, having seven charges of powder and a keg of lead, and the ammunition amounting to only forty rounds of musket-cartridges.

Upon receiving the command, Col. Croghan addressed himself with great assiduity to such preparations as would enable him to withstand an attack. With an insufficient supply of tools and implements, he surrounded the fort by a ditch, cut down and removed trees to musket-shot distance from the fort, and made such repairs as were absolutely necessary upon the stockade. These improvements, pushed on with increasing diligence and labor, were just completed, when intelligence was received at headquarters that the siege of Fort Meigs had been raised, and that Gen. Preston, at the head of five thousand British and Indian troops, and provided with cannon and gunboats, was approaching the American stations on the Sandusky. This state of things seemed to make the contingency upon which Fort Stephenson was to be abandoned. Accordingly, an order from the commander-in-chief was sent to Col. Croghan, directing him "to fall back upon Senecatown."

Upon the receipt of this order, Col. Croghan called a council of war and asked advice of his officers, whether he should abandon it or defend the fort. According to military usage, Ensign Duncan, being the youngest officer, was first called upon to express his opinion. He was decidedly "in favor of defending the fort, the order to the contrary notwithstanding," and of the same mind were a majority of the officers. Col. Croghan expressed great satisfaction at this result, as he said he had determined to defend the fort at all hazards.

Thereupon, he was suspended and ordered to head-quarters, and Fort Stephenson placed under the command of Col. Samuel Wells.

While at headquarters, Col. Croghan so far satisfied the commanding general (Harrison) of the propriety of his course that he was permitted to resume his command at the fort. Soon after his return, the enemy, composed of five hundred British regulars and about as many Indians, under the command of Gen. Preston, appeared before the fort and gave the usual formal summons to surrender. The demand was met with the usual defiance, and forthwith commenced a cannonade upon the fort from the gunboats and from a cannon stationed on the shore. The firing was continued with but little cessation for nearly forty hours. The smallness of the force in the fort rendered a sortie impracticable, and the scarcity of ammunition prevented a return of the enemy's fire during this period. At length, about six o'clock on the morning of August 2, 1813, the welcome sound of a bugle gave notice to the besieged that the British were preparing for the assault. They were seen advancing in several columns under cover of a fire from their artillery. The first attempt was made upon the northeast front of the fort, defended by Lieut. Benj. Johnson, to whose assistance Ensign Duncan promptly hastened, and by their united efforts the enemy's column, led by Lieut.-Col. Street, was repulsed with loss. He, however, renewed the assault, on the northwest angle, defended by Lieut. John Meek and Ensign Edmund Shipp, Jr.

These officers, in obedience to the earnest injunction of Col. Croghan, reserved their fire until the enemy approached within thirty feet, and then poured it upon him with deadly aim. For a moment he recoiled, but recovering himself with a gallant effort, he threw himself into the ditch. The six-pounder had been placed in position to rake the ditch, masked and heavily charged with slugs beaten out of pig-lead.

At the instant that the ditch was filled with the enemy, this piece was discharged upon them, and raking its whole extent with leaden slugs, effected the most fatal slaughter. A second discharge of this piece, accompanied with a fire of musketry, crowded the ditch with killed and wounded, and rendered further contest hopeless.

In the meantime, Col. Warburton, at the head of a large party of about two hundred, made an attack with great spirit at the southeast face of the works, but it shared the fate of the other columns.\* Lieut. Cyrus A. Baylor, who had charge of that part of the line, being aided by the reserve under Ensign Duncan who had been previously ordered to afford relief wherever it was wanted, soon compelled it to retreat precipitately and in confusion. The British general drew off his force, leaving behind him one hundred white men killed and wounded, to say nothing of Indians.

By the successful defence of Fort Stephenson, the plan and purpose of the British campaign were wholly frustrated. His main objects were the possession of the supplies at Cleveland, O., and the destruction of the naval preparations at Erie. The successful accomplishment of which would have given him the command of the lakes, and lost to our country the glory and advantage of Com. Perry's victory on Lake Erie. The possession, too, by the enemy of the southern shore of the lake would have exposed our northwestern frontier to the usual calamities of Indian incursions.

The following account, published in a paper of the time, illustrates the modesty with which Ensign Duncan bore the praises which he, with his brave comrades, had so gallantly earned:

"The following incident was related by Capt. Wm. Garrard of the Kentucky Volunteers, which occurred in his presence the morning after Croghan's victory over the British and Indians at Fort Stephenson or Lower Sandusky, on Aug. 2, 1813.

"When Gen. Harrison, with his army, arrived at Fort Stephenson the morning after the battle, the dead bodies of the enemy were still scattered around the place in every direction. On his arrival, one of the officers in the fort gave the general a glowing account of the battle, and particularly of the part he had himself taken in it, after which the general turned to Ensign Duncan, who had been selected by Maj. Croghan to command the reserve-corps, which is always a post of honor and of great danger and responsibility, and said to him: 'Well, my young friend, what did

you do in this gallant defence?' 'Nothing more than my duty, sir,' was the modest reply of the young soldier who, though he had fought side by side with the gallant Croghan, meeting the enemy with his command and assisting to repulse them at every point of attack, appeared unconscious that he was entitled to any credit, himself, for a victory for its brilliancy never before surpassed, and which was at that very moment filling the general and his whole army with astonishment and the most profound admiration for the gallantry of every officer and soldier engaged in it."

Important in its results, the defence of Fort Stephenson was one of the most brilliant achievements of the war, and won for Col. Croghan, his officers, and men well-merited renown on account of their distinguished services rendered on that occasion. The Congress of the United States caused to be presented to Col. Croghan a gold medal, and to each of the other officers a gold-mounted sword. The resolution adopted by the senate, and the official correspondence with Gov. Duncan are as follows:

"TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION,  
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
June 18, 1834.

Mr. Preston from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following resolution, which was read and passed to a second reading:

RESOLUTION, Presenting a gold medal to George Croghan, and a sword to each of the officers under his command, for their gallantry and good conduct in the defence of Fort Stephenson in eighteen hundred and thirteen.

*Resolved*, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the president of the United States be requested to cause a gold medal to be struck with suitable emblems and devices and presented to Col. Croghan in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his gallantry and good conduct in the defence of Fort Stephenson; and that he present a sword to each of the

following officers engaged in that affair, to Capt. Jas. Hunter, Lieuts. Benj. Johnson, Cyrus A. Baylor, John Meeks, Ensigns Edmund Shipp [Jr.] and Joseph Duncan.

“WAR DEPARTMENT, March 11, 1837.

“His Excellency JOSEPH DUNCAN,  
Governor of Illinois, Vandalia, Ill.,

“*Sir*: By a joint resolution of Congress, approved on the 13th of February, 1835, the President of the United States was requested among other things to present you a sword in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of the gallantry and good conduct displayed by you in the capacity of ensign, as one of the officers engaged in the brilliant and memorable defence of Fort Stephenson, in the month of August, 1813. Pursuant to this resolution, the President has caused a sword to be prepared in a style of execution corresponding in some measure with the distinguished character of the services it is intended to commemorate, and has directed me to place it in your possession. It gives me great pleasure to perform this duty, for whilst I regard the offering which I herewith deliver to you by the hands of Mr. William Linn, as a just tribute from the representatives of a grateful people, I feel persuaded you will be ready to employ it with alacrity and vigor should it again be necessary to require you to risk your life in the public cause.

“Be pleased, at your earliest convenience, to acknowledge the reception of this communication, and also the sword.

Very respectfully, your most obedient

B. F. BUTLER,

Secretary of War, *ad interim*.”

“ELM GROVE, JACKSONVILLE, ILL., 10th May, 1837.

“Hon. B. F. BUTLER, Secretary of War,

“*Sir*: Your letter of the 11th March last, together with the sword which has been presented me by the President of the United States in obedience to a resolution of Congress, has just been received, and, sir, if anything could add to the pleasure I

feel at the receipt of this splendid present, it would be the very handsome manner in which you have been pleased to deliver it.

"Every citizen of our beloved country should at all times feel willing to 'risk his life' in defense of her rights or of that liberty which was secured for us by the patriotism, wisdom, and virtue of our forefathers in that great and glorious struggle by which they broke the shackles both of body and mind from their countrymen and left them in the full enjoyment of equal rights and rational liberty. We have an example of public virtue and heroic fortitude that no son of theirs who loves the peace, honor, and safety of his country can ever disregard. It was from their hands, which appear to have been guided by wisdom from above, we received a constitution and plan of government eminently calculated not only to suit the present condition and wants of society, but to give full scope and energy to all the noble faculties of man which we are bound by every consideration, personal and national, to preserve and transmit to posterity unimpaired, or perish in the attempt.

"Having acted but a subordinate part in the affair at [Lower] Sandusky [now Fremont], which has thus excited the Nation's gratitude, I did not expect nor do I feel that I had any claim to the distinguished honor that Congress has been pleased to confer upon me. To have done my duty on such an occasion, and to know that my conduct met the approbation of my companions in arms and my countrymen was all the compensation I ever expected and is the highest reward that could have been conferred upon me. Regarding the sword as a substantial pledge of approbation, I accept it with gratitude, and hope, with the favor of divine Providence, if ever again called into the service of my country to wear it with honor.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH DUNCAN,  
Late Ensign in the 17th Regt. U.-S. Inf."

In the fall of 1814, Lieut. Joseph Duncan was selected by the commanding officer at Detroit to command a company of one

hundred and thirty infantry and rangers to watch the movements of the British army. On November 5, he crossed the Detroit River and marched one hundred and fifty miles north-east of Malden beyond the head of the Thames River, in Canada, and pitched his camp within twenty miles of the British army, where he remained exposed to the enemy's attacks throughout the most inclement winter, during which time he captured several of their scouting or foraging parties, and sent them prisoners to headquarters. Many instances occurred through the war to test his fortitude and patience.

On one occasion, in company with Lieut. Philips, he crossed Lake Erie from Malden to Sandusky in an open yawl in the month of April, when, in that climate, storms blow with frequent and relentless fury. On nearing the shore, they found it impossible to land for three days, the waves being so high as to break over the boat every time they attempted it.

At the close of the war, Lieut. Duncan returned to Kentucky and engaged in agricultural pursuits. But while in the army he had seen the broad and fertile prairies of Illinois, and ever and anon Fancy, as might be her mood by day or night, would spread them out before him in all their magnificence, covered with their rich wild-flowers. But not until 1818 did the Illinois of his dream become his home.

In 1818, when Illinois was admitted to the Union as a state, and Kaskaskia became her capital, Robert McLaughlin, an uncle of Joseph Duncan, was appointed state treasurer. He induced the family to move to that part of the State, to Fountain Bluff upon the Mississippi, in Jackson County.

Preceded by the history of his gallant conduct in the war, Duncan's sound judgment, strong common-sense, and honorable bearing soon commanded the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens. He was rapidly promoted to the high rank of major-general of the militia, and in 1823 was elected a member of the State senate. While a member of the senate in 1824, he introduced a bill for the establishment of common-schools in Illinois, which became a law. It was a wise law, carefully framed, and



substantially the same as that now in force in this State, but it was in advance of the age and the circumstances of the people, and was soon afterward repealed. An old citizen of Jacksonville, speaking of this law, says: "I well remember the opposition there was to this school-law on the part of the poor people, who feared that their children would be educated and wholly unfitted for work on the farm; the very class which the law was intended to benefit opposed it most bitterly."

Joseph Duncan and Daniel Pope Cook became candidates in the year 1826 for the Twentieth Congress, and Mr. Duncan was elected. Mr. Cook was one of the most brilliant men of his day—had been a member of Congress since the admission of the State, which was constituted a congressional district, and ranked among the leading men in that body, holding the position of chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means; of unbounded popularity in the State until somewhat affected by his vote in Congress for Mr. Adams in 1824. It surely was a triumph of which any man might be proud, to succeed over such an opponent. Mr. Duncan was successively elected to, and continued to be a member of the Twentieth, Twenty-first, and Twenty-second Congresses, and served from 1827 to 1833.

That a congressman's life was then as now too much occupied with the question of appointments is shown by numerous passages in a diary which he kept at the time, from which are transcribed a few passages, omitting some names:

"1829, Feb. 19. Various applications for me to support Duff Green for public printer; could not consent to do so; knew too much of him; believed and told his friends that they would soon get tired of him, as he was arrogant, dictatorial, and possessed no fixed principles;" \* \*

"Feb. 20th. Gen. Jackson arrived in Washington City; Maj. [John H.] Eaton met him on the road and escorted him in. I called to see him on the 17th and again today. I found him engaged in another room with a corps of editors." \* \*

"Feb. 21st. Called again on Gen. Jackson to introduce a friend; saw Mr. Tazewell with the general the only suitable com-

panion I had met. \* \* Saw Capt. [Zac.] Taylor of the U.-S. army; he says he heard that Gen. Jackson was going to call that day upon President [J. Q.] Adams; that he met Duff Green and told him that he understood that Gen. [Andrew] Jackson was to call upon Mr. Adams that day. Gen. Duff Green said that he did not believe the report, but that he would go and see, and if it was so, he would very soon put a stop to it. *Arrogance enough.*" \* \*

"Feb. 23d. From the persons who surround the general, I fear he is to be improperly influenced in his first appointments. The central committee appear to consider him as their own game. Some of them are constantly with him, or about the door as I am informed, for I do not know them all by sight. I called to see Gen. Jackson at 7 o'clock in the evening with two friends, Matthew St. Clair Clarke and Lieut. Johnson. The general expressed much pleasure in seeing us; said he was more gratified to see us at that hour, as 'Duff,' as he called him, had presumed to set his hours for him to receive his visitors; but he said that would all be right, as he had ordered Green to correct the statement regulating his hours for receiving visitors, in his paper.

"What excessive presumption, was the first feeling I had, but it is all right, as it must very soon place this character in his proper hole. Various rumors are current about the appointment of the cabinet, Tazewell to be secretary of state; Hayne, navy; McLean, war; Baldwin, treasury; Ingham, P.-M. G. All agree that the cabinet will be composed of five of the following persons: Tazewell, VanBuren, McLean, Baldwin, Hamilton, Hayne, Ingham, and Cheves. Gen. Ogle arrived in the city; came into the House of Representatives; his red vest attracts great notice; every one whispers to his neighbor to know who he is. Several new senators have arrived. McLean of Illinois. Letters have been received that he obtained his election by union with the E.-and-A. party; hope it is n't so; have a better opinion of the man. Called to see the President; he says he will remove no officer on account of political opinions unless he has used his office for electioneering. He appears liberal, and I agree perfectly with his views."

“March 4th. Attended the President's inauguration. He walked from Gadsbies' hotel with his hat off in a great crowd. Having a fine view from the west room of the clerk's office in the capitol, I could see him and the vast crowd at every point until they ascended the great steps which enter the capitol. Saw nothing that I disliked but the conspicuous station and part acted by the central committee. Stood near the president when he read his address; was struck by the profound attention of the multitude while he read, especially as I am convinced that three-fourths of all present could not have heard the sound of his voice, at least so as to distinguish one word. The expression of the people on his first appearance was very fine, and showed that he had a strong hold on their affection. The number present is variously estimated, the opinions of intelligent persons vary from fifteen to thirty thousand. No parade of the military present, except one or two companies, and they were very far off. I think they were from Alexandria, as I saw one of them coming from that direction. With this I was much pleased. I am opposed to great parades, and especially military parades, on such an occasion; had rather see the honors done after the service is performed; but in this District, where most of the people are servants of or connected with the government, it is natural they should worship the rising sun. I was forcibly struck with the contrast between Mr. Adams entering on and closing his official duties as president. I was present in 1825, when his inauguration took place. It was a fine day, and from the moment I first looked into the street on the morning of the 4th of March until dark I saw nothing but a bustle, people moving in all directions and many of them by sunrise in full military dress, and by 10 o'clock the Avenue was crowded with armed soldiers, whom I took to be a mixture of marines, infantry, and artillery of the United States, and militia of the District. It was certainly the finest display I ever witnessed. Was informed that many of the fine coats had been bought in honor of Gen. La Fayette. I was glad to hear it, for the idea of their having been bought for this occasion was too ridiculous. In 1829, Mr. Adams was not seen

on the 4th of March, and I suppose would not have been thought of but for a coffin handbill that was circulated in the crowd in the most disgusting manner, that produced general disgust. Did not go to the White House to see the President receive his friends after the inauguration. I understood that the crowd was very great; all sorts of folks there, some with their feet on the satin chairs and sofas and mahogany tables. A report was circulated that the gold and silver spoons were stolen on this occasion, but believe that it was not true."

"March 5th. The city is said to be filled with office-hunters. There is general disappointment in the appointment of the cabinet. Clay says that they charged Mr. Adams with making a bargain; that he thinks Gen. Jackson had better have made one."

"March 6th, 1829. Gov. Kinney and E. J. W. wish me to request the removal of certain officers from office, which I declined, as I am opposed to removing competent and worthy men on account of a mere difference of opinion. They appeared to be dissatisfied, but that will make no difference in my conduct, as such a course would be adverse to all my notions of propriety. Went with Gov. Kinney to see the President, recommended West for secretary of legation to the minister to Columbia. Gen. Jackson says he will try and provide for him. Went to see secretary of the treasury in favor of G. T. Pell. The senators join in the recommendation, and he is recommended by many of the members of the legislature of Illinois."

"March 7th, 1829. Kane, McLean, and myself went in McLean's room to consult about appointments in the event of any removals or vacancies. McLean and myself opposed removals except for some good cause other than political. Kane rather differed in opinion about removals. We agreed to recommend C. Slade for marshal in the event of Conner's removal, as charges have been made against him. We did n't all agree upon any one else, nor can I say that we disagreed very much, although several were named."

"March 10th, 1829. Still in Washington waiting on my wife's health. Went to see the President and secretary of war about

getting the Illinois-and-Lake-Michigan canal located and the route from the Illinois River to Lake Erie examined. Saw Gen. Gratiot; got him to go with me to the war department; found him very friendly to my views and to the West. The secretary thinks the law does not authorize him to send engineers to locate. Referred him to the case in Indiana under the same law. He appears disposed to do right, and says if the favor has been done to Indiana it should also be extended to Illinois; promises it shall be ordered."

"March 11th, 1829. Met Maj. Campbell of Tennessee near the treasury department; he told me that the president and secretary of war had given him the appointment of superintendent of the lead mines on the upper Mississippi River in Illinois and Michigan. I resolved to remonstrate against the appointment and told Mr. Campbell of my intention. I went immediately to the president and told him that the appointment of a man from Tennessee to hold an office in Illinois would be treating his friends in that State very badly, and that it could not help exciting much displeasure. He assured me that he would do nothing that would displease his friends anywhere if he knew it; that Mr. Campbell was the only applicant; that he was not acquainted with the fact that so large a portion of these mines was in Illinois. He wrote a note to the secretary of war upon the subject, and assured me that it should be satisfactorily arranged. I called the same day to see Mr. Eaton; he appeared anxious to appoint Campbell. I assured him that it would be resented by every citizen of Illinois if he was appointed. \* \* I urged the necessity, if the change was made, of their compelling the superintendent to give bond and security, as contemplated by my bill upon the subject of governing the mines. Left the secretary without much satisfaction, but convinced that he would insist upon Campbell's appointment. \* \* I immediately wrote a remonstrance to the president, as I was determined that I would clear myself of the responsibility of transferring a man from another State into Illinois to hold an office which placed in his hands fifty thousand dollars per annum of public property,

without check or security to protect the interests of the government. Got a letter from James M. Duncan; he wants to be appointed Indian agent in place of Graham or Hamtramck, who, Gen. Smith of Missouri informs me, are to be removed, and he requests me to use my influence. This I can not do consistently, as I am unwilling to ask or receive a favor which would place me under obligations to the executive power of the government while I am the representative of the people, as the appointment of my brother upon my request would have that tendency, and I think every person applying for an office should have the recommendation of the people with whom he resides or with whom he is to serve. This, I do not doubt, my brother could obtain if he pleases." \* \*

"March —, 1829. Dined at the president's; splendid entertainment. All the secretaries, W. R. Davis, John Varnum, and myself of Congress, Gen. Macomb, Jessup, Gibson, and Gratiot, Col. Towson, and all the foreign ministers in full dress were present, with several other senators. Maj. Eaton informed me that he had concluded not to change the nature of the agency at the mines, but he had or would detail another of the officers of the United-States army to succeed Lieut. Thomas, and that he would have several assistants to appoint and invited me to recommend some persons to fill them. I agreed to see him tomorrow."

"March —, 1829. Went to war office; met Duff Green coming out; wondered if he had any person for one of those places and was told that he wanted Dr. Green of St. Louis appointed. I recommended the retention of McKnight; also recommended Col. Wight, R. W. C., Col. S. A., and R. B. T., but received no answer. The secretary spoke of others out of the State for some of the places, to which I objected."

"April —, 1829. E. J. W. returned to the city; left Kinney in Baltimore. He has a strong recommendation from merchants and other persons of distinction in the city of New York, recommending him for *chargé d'affaires* to ——. I called with him to see the president; he said he would appoint him, but the appropriation for that purpose was exhausted. Gov. Kinney

appears very anxious for West's appointment; delighted with his trip to the North; says he left my brother James in Boston, getting better, to come on with Capt. S. B. Richardson. Went with Kinney to see the president; he told the president that his appointments in Boston gave general satisfaction; said the people expected the Adams men to be turned out. The president expressed pleasure at hearing his appointments gave such satisfaction. Kinney urges the necessity of removals; says the Republicans had fought hard and had gained a great victory, but if the old Federalists were left in office the battle would have to be fought over again; says if it was left to him he would turn them all out as he would a parcel of dogs from a meat-house. The president laughed heartily at this remark, but made no reply. Returning, we met Handy of Indiana, at Williamson's; Kinney asked him if he had been here ever since he saw him. He replied he had. Kinney advised him to go home, or some one would administer on his estate. The little fellow bore the joke very well and replied they would be poorly paid for their trouble if they did. There are many others in the city who are running the same risk."

"April, 1829. Kinney came to see me; said that Eaton would appoint a citizen of Illinois to one of the offices of Galena if I would recommend some one, which I rather declined, as I felt indignant at the appointment of citizens in Tennessee and Virginia to hold offices in Illinois."

"April —, 1829. Went with Kinney to the war department and recommended A. G. S. W. Never did anything with more reluctance, as I feared that it might be considered as a surrender of the ground I had taken against the other appointments. Eaton asked me if I had heard from my brother, who was sick in Boston, and expressed a wish to see him. Kinney said something about his appointment. Eaton said that he had come to no conclusion, but thought that he would appoint him, and requested me to recommend him, which I declined, saying that my brothers must rely upon others to recommend them. Do n't like the proposition; believe it was intended to get me so committed that

if I complained of the other appointments it might be attributed to disappointment in this."

While still a member of Congress, he was appointed, in 1831, by Gov. Reynolds, brigadier-general of volunteers in the expedition against the Indians in what is known as the Black-Hawk War. That expedition marched to Rock Island, and at its approach the Indians crossed the Mississippi and concluded a treaty of peace. Gen. Duncan had no opportunity to distinguish himself in his military service otherwise than by his dignified and soldierly conduct to acquire the respect and good-will of his command, and add to his very great popularity.

He was elected governor of Illinois in 1834, over his competitor, William Kinney, who had been lieutenant-governor of the State and was a man of great popularity. Duncan's majority was about seven thousand over Kinney.

It was during his time, though attaching more to Gov. Reynolds' period, that some singular changes in official positions occurred, which are thus stated: "Reynolds was elected governor of Illinois in 1830. Zadoc Casey at the same time elected lieutenant-governor. In 1832, when three congressmen were apportioned to Illinois, Joseph Duncan, the previous sole member from the State, was elected from the northern district, and Chas. Slade and Zadoc Casey from the two southern districts. Casey was lieutenant-governor and his election to congress made W. L. D. Ewing, president of the senate, acting lieutenant-governor. In 1834, Slade died and Gov. Reynolds was elected to fill this vacancy, and also for the full term following. Hence Ewing, who had become lieutenant-governor when Casey went to congress, became governor when Reynolds went there also, and occupied the executive chair for half a month. And another queer transposition was that Duncan, sitting congressman for seven years past while he was East, was elected governor to succeed Reynolds, and Reynolds, the State governor, was sent to congress to succeed Duncan. Duncan, on his return home in the fall, met Reynolds somewhere at a relay station on the National road, and, after their cordial greeting, Duncan said: "Well,



Governor, we are changing horses here, aint we? You are going from governor to congress, and I am going from congress to governor." "Yes," said the old ranger, "and we are changing horses politically, too. You are riding the Yankee mule and I am going to keep astraddle of Old Hickory."

The pith of this story, which Gov. Reynolds related, was that Duncan had been counted until the time of his election as governor as a Jackson man, and now had become an Adams-and-Clay Whig, while Reynolds was now a Jackson Democrat, when he had previously been counted as a sort of out-rider by the decided Jackson men.

In this political contest, parties first began to be formed on national issues. Prior to 1832, elections were decided more upon the popularity of the men who were the candidates and upon local questions rather than national.

Joseph Duncan had been the ardent supporter of Gen. Jackson in the contest for the presidency in 1824-1828, and, in 1832, Jackson arbitrarily, as he thought, had suspended the functions of the United-States Bank as the financial agent of the government; he had vetoed bills appropriating money for improvement of the great rivers, Mississippi, Illinois, and Wabash, and for the harbor at Chicago. Duncan, having the interests of his constituents at heart, felt obliged to break with the administration, and in many addresses sent through circulars to the people of Illinois, advised them of the reasons why he could not support the administration. He did not canvas the State in person, when a candidate for governor. The public interest demanded that he should remain at his post as member of Congress. The medium he employed to reach the people was the press.

After the election of Gen. Jackson in 1832, Martin Van Buren was presented, with the sanction of Gen. Jackson, as his successor. From 1832 onward, until his election in 1836, members of the Democratic party in Illinois began to take sides for or against Mr. Van Buren, the larger portion in his favor. At that time was first introduced into Illinois politics the convention system, and which, by its opponents, was charged to be the introduction of the machine politics of New York.

Many prominent Democrats, while claiming to support the administration of Gen. Jackson, refused to support Mr. VanBuren as his successor. Their loss, however, was made up to the Democratic party by the adhesion of many heretofore supporters of Mr. Clay. The Democrats who refused to support Mr. VanBuren and the large party of those who had been Adams-and-Clay men united upon Judge White of Tennessee as the opponent of Mr. VanBuren at the election of 1836.

Judge White had always been a warm supporter of Gen. Jackson. Since that time, parties in Illinois have been based on national issues, and the convention system, when first introduced by the friends of Mr. Van Buren, was bitterly attacked by his opponents, but has since become commonly used by all parties.

Joseph Duncan was one of those hostile to Mr. Van Buren, and in his race for governor in 1834, was supported by all the opponents of Van Buren from the Democratic party, and by the opponents of Gen. Jackson generally, and by a sufficiency of the regular Jackson men to elect him governor of Illinois over Mr. Kinney, who was supported by the friends of Mr. VanBuren. It was stated that Joseph Duncan's opposition to Gen. Jackson's administration must have been caused by disappointment or prejudice, or he would not have left his old friends. Replying to this charge in a public address, he said such was not the fact; that he never asked a favor of the administration of Gen. Jackson or Mr. Van Buren; that he had ever been on good terms with Gen. Jackson, and he had no personal difference with Mr. Van Buren; that Gen. Jackson had offered him, through a friend, any office he would choose to accept; and that he had appointed several of his relations to important offices without his solicitation. So far, therefore, from his ever having any personal cause of dissatisfaction, he had ever enjoyed the friendship and kept up the most friendly intercourse with Gen. Jackson, and he would now say what he had said a thousand times before, that he never doubted Gen. Jackson's intentions to do right and to carry out the pledges of himself and party. He believed a better patriot or a man who more sincerely loved his country never lived; but,

unfortunately for his fame and the welfare of his country, he came into office at too advanced an age to give his personal attention to those vast reforms he had pledged himself to carry out, and from his advanced age there resulted a loss of intellect but too perceptible to all who knew him. The glories of his military character, the sauvity of his manners, his fame, and his power brought around him, from curiosity to see the hero, from admiration of his noble, frank, and chivalrous bearing, or from interest, thousands and thousands of individuals from the old and new world, and none were ever turned away, but all were admitted to his presence, and went away delighted with his kind and hospitable treatment. Very soon after Gen. Jackson came into office, from incidents and intrigue well known, Mr. Van Buren became a favorite of the general, and kindly relieved him from the burdens of his official station, leaving the venerable old president to do the more delightful offices of the parlor, for which no man living was ever better qualified.

Mr. Van Buren, having thus obtained the general's confidence, had no difficulty in introducing his own principles into the action of the administration, "and it was in this way," said he, "that all Gen. Jackson's pledges to reduce the expenses and reform the abuses of the government have been abandoned, and the extravagant and ambitious policy of Mr. Van Buren had obtained prestige."

Gov. Duncan said: "he had weighed well the course he had pursued; he knew to oppose the administration would disappoint and perhaps displease many of his oldest and best friends; he anticipated the abuse of the pensioned press and the ambitious office-seekers, but he considered his duty to a generous people and to his country above every personal consideration, and, therefore did not hesitate to oppose every measure which was calculated to increase improperly and unnecessarily the public expenditure, or to clothe the government with improper power, or to lead to prescription or threaten the safety of our free institutions." He asked: "Was it not a fact that he was the favorite of the Jackson party at home, having been elected to Congress

over a talented Adams man by a majority of one thousand votes? And that he was the intimate personal friend of Gen. Jackson and every member of his party at Washington at the time he commenced opposing the administration. Where, then, was the motive for him to abandon them, unless it was from a sense of duty to a people who had often honored him with their confidence and placed him as their sentinel on the watch-tower of their liberties? ”

Gov. Duncan quoted from Jackson's letter to the legislature of Tennessee, Oct. 14, 1825, where he pledges himself “to serve but one term.” This, as well as his oft-repeated pledges of reform and retrenchment had been wholly neglected, nay, had been treated with contempt. Here it will be perceived that under the administration of Mr. Van Buren the expenditures of the government amounted to \$26,664,745 annually, more than under the administration of Mr. Adams, and yet Mr. Adams was turned out for the extravagance of his administration.

In June, 1828, the retrenchment committee reported that at least one-third of the clerks in the department in Washington might be reduced with safety to the public interest, yet nothing was done. Gen. Jackson had promised to hold public officers to a strict accountability, yet it was notorious that millions had been plundered from the treasury without an effort on the part of Mr. Van Buren to prevent it. He had even appointed defaulters to office, knowing the fact, concealing it from the public. The Democrats need not count Van Buren as one; he was no Democrat. He voted, Nov. 9, 1812, in the city of Albany, N.Y., for DeWitt Clinton as a candidate for the presidency. He was found in opposition to his country at a moment when it was bleeding at every pore. But the most serious thing in the conduct of Gen. Jackson was this: that in September, 1833, he ordered the public deposits in the bank to be transferred to selected local banks and entered upon the “experiment” whether these could not act as fiscal agents for the government, and whether the desire to get the deposits would not induce them to adopt sound rules of currency. During the next session, the

senate passed a resolution condemning his conduct. Jackson protested, and, after a hard struggle, the resolution was ordered expunged from the record, Jan. 16, 1837. To show how Joseph Duncan regarded party, I quote again :

"Many complain that I have not sufficiently supported the party in my votes in Congress. To such I would say I have investigated every subject upon which I have been called upon to act, with a sincere desire of obtaining correct information. My votes have been governed by my best judgment and an ardent wish to promote the interest and honor of the country, without regard to what either party supported or opposed.

"Having been led to observe early in life that a man who has firmness and independence enough to do right in high party times, though condemned by the ambitious and selfish demagogues, is certain to be sustained by the patriotic and honorable men of all parties, I was at no loss what course to pursue when I entered Congress. That man who is so weak or so wicked as to vote under the influence of party feeling or party discipline will be compelled, almost every day, to abandon his principles, if he has ever advanced any, the interest of his constituents, his own honor, and his independence, and I envy them not the praise they receive from any party."

An old and tried friend said of Gov. Duncan: "Few men in our country have evinced more independence. Party discipline nor popular excitement ever shook the firmness of his purpose or swerved him from the path of duty.

"When most of the legislatures and governors of the different States raised the popular claim to the public lands within their limits, although then their sole representative, he promptly pronounced their claim illegal, and refused to give it his countenance, for which he was opposed by many of the leading men of the State, but he manfully breasted the opposition and maintained and defended his opinions before the people, who sustained him by a large majority—which has ever put to rest a subject that swept over the West and South like a tornado."

In one of his published letters Gov. Duncan says: "It is my

deliberate opinion, formed by long observation of the spirit of the Van Buren party, that if the Whigs shall now consent to organize and act upon the same principles, elections in this country will become as corrupt as they are in the rotten boroughs of England, and *then* the government will soon end in angry contest, civil war, and perhaps despotism.

“Let all parties throw off the shackles which party machinery has imposed upon them. Then they will, as before 1830 when the republic was pure, march to the polls like freemen and vote for men and measures on their own judgment. The three issues of the party now are the bank, tariff, and distribution. We are for a well-guarded bank, chartered by the United States to act as a fiscal agent of the government, to regulate our currency and assist commerce, to be owned and directed chiefly by private stockholders who shall be responsible to Congress or its special agent for their strict observance of the law and their fidelity to the government. We are in favor of a tariff or tax to support the government being levied, first upon such articles of necessity as are required by every family. We are opposed to proscription and removals of competent public agents for their political opinions by the executive government, because it degrades and enslaves the public officer and takes away his responsibility to the law and the people and makes him the servile tool of men in power.”

Gov. Duncan, in his first message at the session of the legislature of 1834, forcibly called the attention of that body to the subject of education and common-schools, by saying: “As every country is prosperous and respected in proportion to the virtue and intelligence of its inhabitants, the subject of education will doubtless again form an important part of your deliberations. \* It becomes us to use every exertion in our power to instruct those who are immediately dependent upon us, and leave to those who come after us the rich revenues to be derived from the land, canals, and other improvements; to form a permanent fund to carry out any plan you may now adopt for the purposes of education. \* \* A government like ours, controlled and

carried on by the will of the people, should be careful to use all the means in its power to enlighten the minds of those who are destined to exercise so important a trust. This and every consideration connected with the virtue, elevation, and happiness of man, and the character and prosperity of our State, and of our common country, calls upon you to establish some permanent system of common-schools by which an education may be placed within the power, nay, if possible, secured to every child in the State. As the first establishment may, from want of experience, be attended with difficulty and loss, it may be found most expedient to commence the system while the funds are small, so that when they increase we may have acquired experience, by which they may be employed more judiciously."

In the same message he urges with great force the necessity of the completion of the canal from the Illinois River to Lake Michigan, wide enough for steamboats to pass. What he said in that message of the future of Illinois was then a prediction, but is today more than realized.

"The slightest reflection upon the ease with which our prairies may be brought under cultivation, compared with the labor, expense, and delay which attend the clearing and cultivating a heavy-timbered forest, must convince the most skeptical of the splendid results which will follow from the completion of a work that will enable us to sell at an increased value our agricultural, mineral, and other productions.

"It is not merely in the ease with which farms are opened that the superiority of the agricultural prospects of this State consist. The fertility of the soil yields a rich product, its lightness renders it easy of cultivation, while its depth almost certainly secures the prudent and industrious farmer against those vicissitudes of the season which so frequently destroy the crops in other countries.

"Judging of the future by the past and present rapid improvement, which is everywhere in progress in our State, and estimating its future population by the inexhaustible resources of the country and by the flood of enterprising citizens pouring into it from every quarter of the civilized world, the imagination is lost

in contemplating the millions of happy and independent people which it is destined to sustain, and whose surplus will scarcely find room to float upon the majestic rivers, the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, flowing to the north and to the south, which Providence, in the fullness of its beneficence, has provided on a scale equaled only by the vast country they are destined to accommodate."

The public mind was not then ready to adopt the views of Gov. Duncan in relation to common-schools, but his views then advanced had their influence on public opinion, and led, in 1854-'55, to the adoption into a law of a bill prepared by Ninan W. Edwards for a system of common-schools, now in force, and the provisions of which are very similar to those of the law adopted in 1824, of which Gov. Duncan was the author.

Gov. Duncan did not recommend the charter of the State Bank adopted at that session, but expressed an opinion against it, saying: "Should it be considered expedient to establish a bank, a measure I can not at present advise, I would suggest the propriety of providing that, in no event, should more than six per cent per annum be divided to the stockholders, and that the stock be sold at public auction to the highest bidder and the advance on it put into the State treasury. Banks may be made exceedingly useful in society, not only affording an opportunity to the widow, the orphan, and the aged who possess capital without the capacity of employing it in ordinary business to invest it in such stock, but by its use the young and enterprising mechanic, merchant, and tradesman may be enabled more successfully to carry on his business and improve the country.

"But, unfortunately, banks are too often established to benefit the rich speculator, with no reference to the interest and convenience of the industrious poor, which has justly excited a jealousy among the people against all banks, and should admonish us to be exceedingly careful in the first permanent introduction of them into our State."

The message also recommended the subject of colleges in the following terms: "The State has also at its disposal a consider-



able fund for the establishment and support of colleges, institutions of learning of a more liberal character, although of less vital importance than a system of common-schools, and are second only to them in importance. Nor can the inestimable value of education be properly appreciated until provision is made for instruction in the higher branches of literature. The subject is one whose importance will doubtless recommend itself to your serious consideration."

The legislature of 1834-35 adjourned without taking any efficient action upon the recommendations of Gov. Duncan on the subject of education and the canal. A call of the legislature was made for a special session to assemble on the first Monday of December, 1835, mainly for an apportionment of representation under the census of that year. Gov. Duncan addressed a written message to this legislature, and, after advising them that all efforts to obtain a loan to complete the canal under the act of the last session had failed, he recommended them to authorize a loan on a pledge of the faith of the State for such a sum as, in their discretion, they may consider necessary for a vigorous prosecution of the work.

The loan had failed to be made under the law of the previous session because the faith of the State was not pledged for its repayment, therefore, the recommendation of the governor for a pledge of the faith of the State, to prevent a failure of the prosecution of the work. That legislature did pass a law authorizing a loan to be made and a pledge of the faith of the State given for its repayment. Under this law a loan was made and was the efficient means of completing the building of the Illinois-and-Michigan Canal.

Gov. Duncan, in his message, urged the importance of other works of internal improvement, but opposed the making of them *by the State*, and recommended them to be built by private individual enterprise. He said: "Several other important works of internal improvement have been authorized by law, and many others are spoken of, which the commerce and rapid growth of the State must very soon require to be put into operation, and,

while I would urge the most liberal support of all such measures, as tending with perfect certainty to increase the wealth, resources, and prosperity of the State, I would at the same time most respectfully suggest the propriety of leaving the construction of all such works, whenever it can be done consistently with the general interest, chiefly to individual enterprise. Experience has shown that capitalists, merchants, and the farmers of the country soonest discern the necessity and importance of such improvements; and while the State can, by a liberal subscription to the stock, which I would advise in all cases, give impulse to work undertaken by individuals, it may make a safe investment of its funds such as will pay the interest upon any loan which may be required and render as much, and often more, service to the country than by undertaking the whole work. When we look abroad and see the extensive lines of internal communication penetrating almost every section of our sister states; when we see the canalboat and the locomotive bearing, with seeming triumph, the rich productions of the interior to the rivers, lakes, and ocean, almost annihilating time, burden, and space, what patriot bosom does not beat high with a laudable ambition to give to Illinois her full share of these advantages which are adorning and enriching her sister states, and which a munificent Providence seems to invite by the wonderful adaptation of our whole country to such improvements."

In the same message he recommended an increase of the capital stock of the State Bank, which had been chartered at the previous session of the legislature.

At the regular session of the legislature of 1836-37, Gov. Duncan again addressed them in a written message, which, however, was nearly a reiteration of his views on state affairs expressed in his message at the previous called session. He again pressed the establishment of common-schools and repeats what he said in the preamble to his bill of 1824-25 as follows: "To enjoy our rights and liberties we must understand them; their security and protection ought to be the first object of a free people; and it is a well-established fact that no nation has ever

continued long in the enjoyment of civil and political freedom which was not both virtuous and enlightened, and believing that the advancement of literature always has been and ever will be the means of developing more fully the rights of men; that the mind of every citizen in a republic constitutes the basis of its strength and happiness, it is, therefore considered the peculiar duty of a free government like ours to encourage and extend the improvement of the intellectual energies of the whole."

On the subject of internal improvements he says his mind had undergone no change, but urged again the propriety of the State taking stock to aid in constructing public works. This message is mainly confined to views on national politics and arguing against the danger of the great increase of the power and patronage of the executive of the United States.

The legislature at this session passed the famous bill "to establish and maintain a general system of internal improvements," which provided for the work being done by the State and on its faith and credit. This bill, when passed, was laid before the council of revision, then composed of the governor and judges of the supreme court, for its approval. The bill was not approved by the council, but was returned with the objection "that such works can only be made safely and economically in a free government by citizens or by independent corporations, aided or authorized by government."

The bill, when returned with the objections of the council, was again passed, the objections of the council notwithstanding, and became a law. The objection of the council was in conformity with the views of Gov. Duncan, as expressed in his message at the called session, and the objection had his concurrence.

In reviewing the recommendations of Gov. Duncan, it is manifest they were wise and statesman-like, and their wisdom has been manifested by the subsequent experience of the State.

The following message to the legislature of 1837 gives more fully his views in relation to the banks of the State, the internal improvement act, and the Illinois-and-Michigan Canal, the three subjects which then engrossed the attention of the people and

the politicians of the State. Had his counsels prevailed, Illinois would have escaped the losses entailed by the failure of the banking system and the system of internal improvements, and the Illinois-and-Michigan Canal would have been constructed at first as a ship-canal, and from the date of its opening been a great national highway.

July 11, 1837, Vandalia. Gov. Duncan says: "In my message at the opening of the last session it was my happiness to congratulate you on the prosperity then so eminently enjoyed by every portion of our beloved country, and from my inmost heart did I rejoice to see the industrious citizen everywhere reap the rich rewards of his labor; and although even then I was not without strong apprehensions of an early reverse, I am confident no human forecast could have anticipated so sudden a calamity as has been brought upon the country by the action of the Federal government upon its currency.

"At the time the president of the United States assumed the responsibility of ordering the public moneys to be removed from their legal deposit in the Bank of the United States, for the purpose, as he avowed, of preventing the recharter of the institution by Congress, there never was a sounder currency or a more healthy state of things in the world. To effect this great object, namely, that of destroying the United-States Bank, rival institutions were to be created; and it will be remembered that immediately after the removal of the deposits by the government, parties commenced establishing state banks, whilst state legislatures, deluded by the fallacious promises of advantages to be derived from the deposits to be made in their institutions, which were to be fiscal agents of the government, readily fell into the measure. As might have been expected, hundreds of new banks instantly sprang up. Their enormous issues of irredeemable paper afforded the inducement of universal extravagant speculation, and gave us what all must now regard as worthless and depraved currency.

"Before the public were aware of the ruin which this wild scheme portended, the executive and a portion of its party, see-

ing their error, it would seem, endeavored to escape its consequences by amusing the people with the absurd, impracticable project of an exclusive hard-money currency. I say absurd, for as well might the executive of the United States expect to compel the citizens of the great valley to abandon the use of steamboats and resume the flat-bottomed barge in the navigation of its thousand streams and rivers, as to force them again to give up a sound paper currency, at all times convertible into specie with all its adaptedness to the purposes of the commerce and business of the country. \* \*

“It was in view of the motives which dictated this measure and in the anticipation of some of these results that I opposed at first the establishment of the State Bank of Illinois, as I did also last winter both the increase of its capital and that of the bank at Shawneetown. But it is easier sometimes to trace the causes of evil than to find out a remedy for them.

“The enquiry, however, is important and useful, as the discovery of the cause not unfrequently suggests the remedy. \* \* Probably as much as can at present be effected will be to place our own State in such an attitude as to parry off the blow and stay as far as possible the effect of the crisis upon our interests, until Congress, the only legitimate power under our constitution, shall regulate the currency and restore it to its former sound condition and beneficent action. \* \*

“In the midst of the disasters which have already fallen on the commercial world and which are threatening us on all sides, a favorable opportunity occurs to escape from the perils of that system of internal improvement adopted last winter, which to my apprehension is fraught with evil; and for the reason assigned when I refused my assent to the enactment passed in its favor, as well as for existing pecuniary troubles and derangements, *I now recommend its repeal.*

“Aware that it is always difficult and sometimes grievous at least partially to abandon even a bad system after all the interests of society have become identified with it, it is with reluctance, much more in regard to this fact than hesitation as to the pro-

priety of the step, that I urge the recommendation; especially, too, as my conviction is deep and firm that such undertakings belong rather to arbitrary and despotic governments than to the republican institution of a free people, as by the power of patronage and official influence they tend to corrupt the many and exalt the few. In all the melancholy histories of departed liberty, the process of decay commenced in the people's neglect or disuse of their own rights and privileges, and progressed in the ignorant and fatuous transfer of them to their rulers. And of all the dark symptoms which indicate the evil at work in our system, none seems so fearful, so alarming as the steady, nay, rapid departure of power from the hands of the people to the hands of the government, a fact sufficiently obvious to all who have observed the political movements of the last eight days.

"If to the power and influence which necessarily belong to political station there be added the immense patronage no less involved in extended public works, there may come a struggle between the people and their rulers, but too late for the former to regain what the latter have stolen. Let the present pernicious system be rescinded, and in its stead adopt the safer, the more generous, more economical, more expeditious, and in every respect the preferable plan of encouraging private individuals and corporations by suitable aid from the State, and thus escape the intrigue, venality, waste, and corruption inherent in that patronage which must grow out of such a system as the present. \* \* \*

"A report and correspondence of the canal commissioners are also transmitted. By the correspondence it will be seen that the calling of the legislature together has been urged upon the executive by them as necessary for the carrying on of that favorite work and because of the probable difficulty of collecting the second instalment on the lots sold in Chicago, which fell due on the 20th of June last.

"Having received a letter from the board informing me they would make a full report to the legislature of all their operations, present and plans for the future, I will leave this subject, with an

earnest recommendation of it to your fostering care, hoping this great work will be carried forward with all expedition consistent with a just economy.

“As I consider it a national work and ourselves as managers of the fund appropriated by Congress for its accomplishment, it would seem to be our duty faithfully to apply these means; and upon its completion, after a suitable reservation for repairs and improvements, and with due consideration for the rights of the State, it will be equally our duty and interest to make this canal free as the waters of the lakes.

“Unpleasant as the subject is to myself and maybe to others, I feel bound again to call your attention, and, through you, that of your constituents, to the affairs of our national government, especially of its executive branch, to the action of which I confidently believe many of the evils we are now suffering and with which we are threatened are fairly to be attributed. There must be a change; there must be reform. The public treasury must be again firmly placed in the custody of law, and all power and control over it by the executive of the United States must be repudiated.

“The executive should be prohibited, under severe penalties, from establishing a rule in violation of law to collect this revenue in one quarter of the country in specie only, and in another to collect in bank paper; or from using any other means for diverting the specie, which is the only safe basis of exchange, from the ordinary channels of business. Congress must regulate the currency by law and place it out of executive or official power, either to try experiments or make speculations upon it.

“The patronage of the executive must be reduced and his power to remove public officers so modified as to prevent his displacing a faithful and competent man, either to gratify party malice or to intimidate the exercise of the elective franchise; so, also, as will secure him against executive tyranny and all control over his official acts, except such as the law imposes; that his qualifications, fidelity, and ability may be his only hope of retaining office. This control over the public press and Congress,

which has been so powerfully exercised by the appointment of newspaper editors and members of the senate and house of representatives to high and lucrative offices by the executive, should as far as possible be obviated.

“The constitutional and legal right of each or both houses of Congress to examine into the official conduct of every officer in the government should be clearly established, as it is the only efficient check the people have upon their public servants, whilst public expenditures must be reduced and more economy and simplicity in the administration of government be observed before we can ever be secure of those inestimable blessings hitherto enjoyed under our constitution and excellent form of government. I pray, gentlemen, that the State may experience the full measure of your patriotism.

“Never was wisdom from above to direct your counsels more to be implored than at this moment. Party spirit in its mildest form has ever been found an enemy to liberty and sound legislation, but when it is the offspring of ambition and avarice directed by designing bad men in high places, it begets a blind devotion and infuriated zeal, which shuts the door against all reason, justice, and patriotism.

“May God, in his infinite wisdom and mercy, avert such an evil from this country and grant that justice and the laws may prevail, and every man in this broad land may sit down again with confidence under the shadow of the constitution in the peaceable and quiet enjoyment of his rights and privileges. No power must be allowed to exist in this country superior to that of the people, or that does not acknowledge the supreme and inflexible authority of the law as the rule and action both for the president and every other functionary of the government.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH DUNCAN.”

Dec. 4, 1838, Joseph Duncan, on retiring from office as governor, sent a message to the senate and house of representatives, a part of which I shall give, although it may seem a repetition of what has already been said of his political views, etc., etc.



He says: "In relation to the impolicy of our system of internal improvements my mind has undergone no change as expressed in my recommendation of its repeal at the called session in July, 1837. How to get rid of the evil with which we are threatened by this improvident act without too great a sacrifice of public and private interests is a subject which should occupy your serious and patriotic deliberation.

"I again recommend that the works of improvement be left in the hands of the citizens of the State or to corporations created by law, and that the government have as little to do with them as possible, except to encourage all such undertakings by an equal and liberal subscription for their stock." \* \*

Speaking of men appointed to office by the executive of the United States, he says: "They were *formerly* appointed for their qualifications to serve the public. They are *now* appointed to obey and serve their party-leaders. *Formerly*, the public officers were not permitted to become active politicians for the purpose of influencing elections in the State, and were left to vote and speak like free men; *now*, from the president down, they are all active politicians, wielding the influence of office, the power of money, and the press to sustain themselves. Under the proscriptive and arbitrary policy of the executive, the public officer loses his independence of action and speech, the most essential attribute of liberty. It is a maxim that "he who enslaves a citizen is a tyrant," and if so, those who permit it can not long expect to retain the name of free men.

"How to remedy these evils should be a serious subject of enquiry with you and every reflecting citizen in our country, without distinction of party, for when the ocean heaves there is no certainty whose bark will be able successfully to ride upon its troubled waves. I can see no hope of reform but for the legislatures of the different states to instruct their senators, and the people their representatives in Congress to vote for all measures to reduce the executive patronage, the receipts and expenditures of government, and to prohibit the removal of public officers on party grounds or for any cause without assigning a reason to the

senate for such removal; to prohibit members of Congress from receiving appointments from the executive of the United States for at least two years after the expiration of the time for which they may have been elected, and to prohibit, under severe penalties, any officers of the United-States government from persuading, bribing, or otherwise influencing votes or elections, from conducting a newspaper press, from bribing or influencing any editor of a paper to support any political party, or contributing money for either of the before-named purposes. Those powers form the great lever with which the executive is now controlling the politics and election of the whole country. Correct them and all other abuses, great as they are, will become comparatively harmless, and the government, which now, like a mighty river, has overflowed the whole land, will sink quietly within its limits, and aspiring men will once more rely upon patriotism, virtue, and talents to secure those places of honor which every citizen of our country should, and under such circumstances would, become ambitious to receive.

"The work on the Illinois-and-Michigan Canal has progressed as rapidly as could be expected. \$444,292 has been received by the canal commissioners on account of lots and lands sold. \$500,000 of State bonds were sold in 1836 and 1837 in New York at five per cent premium.\* This and other sums [naming them] have been paid to the canal commissioners. The balance remains on deposit in the State Bank of Illinois, subject to the order of my successor. Considering the canal now, as I have ever considered it, a national highway to be kept as free as the waters of the Mississippi or the St. Lawrence and that the Nation stands pledged to furnish the entire means for its completion, I would further recommend that application be made for further aid to enable the State of Illinois to construct a steamboat canal

\* This Gov. Duncan did for the State. Going to New-York City at his own expense, he made for the State \$50,000. He did not receive one farthing of the money into his own hands, but required that the whole sum, principal and premium, should be placed in the bank to the credit of the State.—*Alton [Ill.] Telegraph*, May, 1842.

from Lake Michigan to the Illinois River, and by the article of cession and Ordinance of 1787, Congress and the Nation stand committed to furnish the entire means of completing this canal. That our public highway may be made permanent and straight is greatly to be desired as a measure of general utility.

"A mineralogical and agricultural survey of the State could not but be attended with the most favorable results.

"A well-arranged and properly-disciplined militia gives to a free people the confidence of a strong man.

"Every possible encouragement should be given to institutions of learning, whether the common-school or the college; they are the corner-stones of our free government. Education is the foundation of every enjoyment of man in this world and of blessings in the world to come. \* \*

"In taking leave of you, gentlemen, allow me to offer the assurance of my sincere good wishes and friendly feeling for every one of you. The violence with which I have been assailed by my political opponents during the whole time I have been in office has caused no rankling in my bosom. The plain manner in which I have felt it my duty to speak of what I sincerely believed to be errors and abuses of the party now in power I knew well would bring their vengeance with all its force upon me, and had I loved ease and office more than my duty, I should have chosen a different course. But I owe too strong a debt of gratitude to the people of Illinois and hold the constitution and freedom of our country in too much esteem ever to shrink from the discharge of my duty."

In the same message he thus discusses the subject of intemperance: "The dreadful ravages and baneful effects of intemperance are felt and acknowledged in our whole country. Christian philanthropists and statesmen, not only of this, but of every part of the civilized world, are now engaged in exposing the extent and evils of this degrading and most alarming vice, and some of our sister states have undertaken, by legislative provision, to eradicate the evil from among them, and I would most respectfully and earnestly commend the subject as one worthy of your

serious consideration. In conclusion, allow me, gentlemen, to remind you of our obligations to divine Providence for the unusual share of health, and for the abundant crops and improvements with which our State has been blessed during the last year. To secure a continuance of these blessings and success to your labors as legislators we must look to and invoke the blessings of God, who holds the destiny of the world in His almighty hand, and who has said that nothing shall prosper that does not acknowledge Him as its author."

In 1842, Joseph Duncan was again nominated as a candidate for the office of governor, at the ensuing election in August, this time by the Whig party. The Democrats had already, in December, 1841, nominated Adam Wilson Snyder of St. Clair County as their candidate for the same office.

In this contest, a new element appeared, which for several years was a disturbing element of no small magnitude in the politics of the State. In 1839 and 1840, the Latter-Day Saints or Mormons, driven from the State of Missouri, had arrived in Illinois and settled in Hancock County, and commenced building the City of Nauvoo, which they intended to make the spiritual, if not the temporal capital of their religious sect.

In the spring of 1840, a bill for an act for the incorporation of the City of Nauvoo was introduced. The Whig and Democratic members of the legislature vied with one another in subscribing to the new sect, each party hoping to gain their political support. As a result of such a time-serving policy, the Mormons obtained for their city a charter conferring the most extraordinary powers upon the corporation, making the city a petty sovereignty above and superior to the laws of the State.

In 1840, the Mormons had given their support to the Whigs, having been expelled from Missouri by Gov. Luburn W. Boggs, a Democrat. Adam W. Snyder had been State senator in 1840, and with Stephen A. Douglas, then secretary of State, had been active in procuring the passage of the act incorporating the City of Nauvoo. Accordingly, Joseph Smith issued his proclamation directing his followers to support Snyder. The Mormon population of Hancock County was estimated at 16,000.

The support of the Mormons was, however, a two-edged sword, and the anti-Mormon feeling, fostered by Duncan and his friends, was rising rapidly and threatened to overwhelm Snyder at the approaching election, when he suddenly died. The Democrats then placed in nomination Judge Thomas Ford, who, though well known, was not prominently connected with any recent political movement, and his views on the political issues of the day were unknown. He thus received the support of the whole party, Mormons and all, and was elected governor, receiving 46,901 votes, while Duncan received 38,584.

With this defeat of his candidacy for the office of governor ended Joseph Duncan's political career and public life. One writer speaking of his public life, says: "In these civic offices, no less than those of war, Gov. Duncan built up a reputation of which his family, his friends, the State, and the Nation may be justly proud. As a statesman, he had a well-balanced mind, strict integrity, large and liberal views, ardent love of country, which knew no geographical lines, and great independence in the formation and expression of his opinions, were his prominent characteristics. Had he been ambitious of office rather than true to his principles and his country, he could easily have sailed upon the crest of the popular wave and enjoyed to the end of his life, high political stations. But Joseph Duncan was no time-serving demagogue, and when the Jackson party, with which he was connected and which was then in triumphant majority, departed as he believed, from the principles upon which the gallant chief at its head and his friends had conducted the presidential campaign, he did not hesitate to enter his solemn protest against such departure, and to place himself in the ranks of the opposing minority. This movement alone achieved for him more true renown than any office in the gift of the president or the people could have conferred."

It is for the hearer rather than the writer to say how just is the foregoing panegyric. Here in Jacksonville, where he lived and died, it is proper that I should also say something of his character as a man, a citizen, and also detail some of the incidents of his private life.

During the four years in which Joseph Duncan was acting as governor of Illinois, the principal questions relating to national politics discussed and considered by the people of the State were those growing out of the changes introduced by the Jackson-Van Buren Democracy, and the principal questions in domestic politics were those relating to the canal and other internal improvements, the banks, and the remedy for the stringency of the times following the crash of 1837. Yet in his own State and during his administration, in the year 1837, there occurred an event of momentous importance in our national history. I refer to what was called the Alton riots, and which resulted in the death of Rev. Elijah Parish Lovejoy, Nov. 7. You are all, no doubt, familiar with the general features of that affair, and I will not attempt to portray them here.-

While it may be a question whether Mr. Lovejoy's death was not induced by his own recklessness, and while it may be doubted whether Mr. Lovejoy's course was in all respects judicious or the best calculated to accomplish the purpose he had in view, it can not be doubted that the pro-slavery mob at whose hands he met his death were assembled to destroy his (fourth) press, as more than once had already been done, and if possible, to compel him to suppress his anti-slavery views.\*

There is no task more difficult than to attempt to set forth accurately in the present the true character of those who have influenced their generation in the past, or fully to understand the influences shaping and controlling their conduct.

We must remember that in those days the daily newspaper did not lay before the people the principal transactions of the whole world, or even of the whole Nation. Local questions seemed of more vital importance; local contests were more heated and enlisted more zeal and earnestness from the partisans on either side. Society in Illinois was still in an unformed state. State and national questions of high importance were still unsettled in a period of turmoil and strife. As has been well said, "In all

\* See "The Martyrdom of Lovejoy. By Henry Tanner, an eye-witness. Chicago: Fergus Printing Co., 1881."

periods of political and social excitement, human nature will manifest itself in its brightest and darkest contrasts. The vices and virtues of men will stand out in bold relief, their peculiarities of character displaying themselves with remarkable distinctness."

Although the Alton riots called for no official action or expression of opinion on the part of Gov. Duncan, yet he felt deeply the disgrace brought upon the State by the illegal and unlawful conduct of the rioters, although at the same time deprecating, at that time, as unwise the course pursued by Lovejoy and his friends. Probably no clearer statement of his views in regard to these matters can be found than those contained in a letter written by him to Rev. Gideon Blackburn in reply to one from the latter. This letter is as follows:

"ELM GROVE, JACKSONVILLE, ILL., Dec. 12, 1837.

"DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 11th inst. has just been received, in which you say you consider it, in reference to the Alton mob and the death of the Rev. E. P. Lovejoy, a duty to inquire of me, 'as executive organ of the State, whether the spirit of mobs must triumph in the State? Shall the blood of martyred citizens remain unexpiated? Shall the property, liberty, and life of our citizens be at the mercy of a lawless and infuriated mob? Shall they be permitted to tread down all law?' etc., etc., and, as an individual, you invoke my influence as the head of the State as far as my authority may go 'to save the State from lawless rebellion, blood-guiltiness,' etc, etc.

"The outrage at Alton must be disapproved and regretted by all good citizens, and nothing has happened within our peaceful State that has filled me with so much regret as that event. The restless spirit of the people of the United States, so frequently developed of late in mobs, has made a deep impression on my mind and is evidence that all is not right with us.

"I hold that no power in this country is superior to the law, and that a violation of it with impunity is impossible without giving a serious wound to the liberties of the people and impairing the strength and value of our free institutions; but little,

however, you must know, is left to the executive branch of this State government in such cases, as all offenders are to be tried by the courts and juries of the county, which is the only safe tribunal to entrust with such power, and I doubt not they will do their duty in the case alluded to. Should it so happen that the executive authority shall be found necessary to carry into effect a sentence of the court in this or any case, you may be assured it shall be executed with all the energy of which I am capable.

“While thus condemning mobs and all sorts of lawless violence, which I do from the bottom of my soul, for I believe they are never necessary and generally judge and execute their judgments improperly, to say nothing of the violence done the law and constitution, which is an attack on the rights and liberties of every citizen, and especially the poor and weak part of them, yet I must at the same time express my decided disapprobation of any attempt, while the public mind is in such a state of excitement, to agitate the question of abolishing slavery in this country, for it can never be broached without producing violence and discord, whether it be in a free or slave State. Therefore, if I have read my Bible right, which enjoins peace and good-will as the first Christian duties, it must be wicked and sinful to agitate this subject in the manner it has been done by some Abolitionists, especially after our Southern neighbors have repeatedly and earnestly appealed to us not to meddle with it, and assured us their having done so has not only jeopardised their own safety and domestic peace, but in many cases has caused bloodshed and rebellion, which has compelled them, as a measure of prudence and protection, to use more rigidity and severity with their slaves. Thus it would appear that the slaves and master suffer alike by this interference, which all must regard as an infringement on their political rights.

“In addition to these reasons why many of my countrymen, and myself among the rest, think the discussion of the question of abolition improper, is this: Because it is believed it can not be effected, except by consent of slave-holders, without violating the constitution of the United States and disregarding the sacred



obligations of the compact or compromise on which the Union of the States was formed. Many also there are, and I confess I am one of them, who believe it will neither be consistent with sound policy or humanity by a single effort to free all the slaves in the Union, ignorant, vicious, and degraded as they are known to be, and then turn them loose upon the world without their possessing the least qualification for civil government, or knowledge of the value of property, or the use of liberty. I say at a single blow because I am confident that such an event can never take place without violence, civil war, and disunion, so long as the Abolitionists use the means they are using, and the Southern slaveholders continue to regard all their efforts and arguments as incendiary, unjust, illegal, and officious.

“As to the precise character of this affair at Alton, I do not profess to be informed. All agree, however, Mr. Lovejoy’s death was caused by a lawless mob, and whether he killed the first man or not, they were aggressors and must stand condemned in the eyes of every virtuous and peaceful citizen. Yet I am bound in candor to say that I disapprove of Lovejoy’s determination to persist in the publication of sentiments that had driven him from St. Louis and *twice* before caused the destruction of his own press in Alton, and which had scarcely ever been broached anywhere without producing the deepest feeling and often very great excitement. I can not, however, from my knowledge of the man, for a moment doubt the purity of his motives, but believe his conduct was actuated by a perverted judgment, and was not sanctioned by any precepts found in the Word of God, or the practice of our Saviour, or any of his disciples while on earth.

“Yet, sir, I beg you will not consider that I am one of those you named, who believe ‘he deserved his fate,’ or that I hold those that destroyed him guiltless—far otherwise I assure you. Yet I do think his zeal and intrepidity were worthy of a better cause.

“You call Mr. Lovejoy a martyr, and I perceive that he is so called by many others, and the good city of Alton and the State of Illinois are anathematized and charged with blood-guiltiness,

etc., etc., by several prints from abroad that have met my eye since the fatal affair. Now, sir, I can not see the propriety of all this. In the first place, I consider no man entitled to the distinction of martyrdom who is the first to shed blood and who dies with arms in his hands, and whatever may be said or done in defence of the liberty of personal rights and the freedom of the press, which should be held sacred in our country, the Bible tells us that the *seed* of discord is an abomination to the Lord. I was born and lived more than half my life in a slave State, long enough to be convinced that the degraded condition of the slave and slavery itself is a great moral and political evil, and we should earnestly implore God to open up the way by which they may be enlightened and improved in their condition, and, when prepared to enjoy it, and it can be done without violating the constitution, the peace and union of the States, we should pray to see them all set at liberty. Why should Mr. Lovejoy be styled a martyr? Was it for his zeal as a captain in the service of our Saviour? If so, we should have seen his valor shown, not in the exercise of any passion, but in the maintaining that humility, meekness, and dove-like spirit always evinced and advised by our Redeemer.

“It would be profitable, in my opinion, for those who approve of building up God’s kingdom in the world of violence to remember the rebuke Christ gave one of his disciples who made a forward movement of boldness in his service by using his sword upon one of his enemies and persecutors, and the love, forbearance, charity, and meekness he showed in healing the wound.

“I know it is the popular doctrine among some Christians that their own conscience is to be the rule or guide of their actions, and what they think to be God’s service must be done, let what may follow. Under such feelings we see men courting the dislike of the world, and even provoking their vengeance. Before we saint such as may fall victims to such madness it may be well to look into the motives which probably influenced their course—whether it may not have sprung from spiritual pride, seeking distinction, or to be more exalted with their party. There is

something in true holiness which exalteth the meek and humble Christian above him that taketh a city. Very truly yours,

JOSEPH DUNCAN."

Although Gov. Duncan, in leaving the state of his birth and the home of his childhood, was very largely moved by a desire to avoid what he considered the blighting influence of slavery, had freed his own slaves and had joined heartily in opposing the introduction of slavery into Illinois, yet the sentiments of the Abolitionists were exceedingly distasteful to him. Under the term Abolitionists were included, not those who thought slavery a moral evil or an economical blunder, but those who insisted upon the abolition of slavery throughout the Union by the government, and discussed the question with that end in view. As may be gathered from the foregoing letter, he had a profound respect for law and lawful methods. He revered the founders of the Nation, and looked upon the constitution of the United States as the highest manifestation of political wisdom known to the world, and regarded its authors as almost inspired. Hence, when he heard the ultra Anti-slavery men or Abolitionists denounce the constitution and declare its restrictions were not binding upon their conscience or conduct, he felt as the judge or lawyer feels when he hears the law reviled for its delay, and the more summary methods of Judge Lynch advocated as the remedy for lawlessness. He sympathized with Henry Clay in his plans for gradual emancipation and believed that some such plan should be adopted with compensation to the owners. His views of Abolitionists may be illustrated by the following letter, found among his papers:

"ELM GROVE, Oct. 10, 1838.

"To Hon. S. D. LOCKWOOD,

President of the Board of Trustees of Illinois College:

*Dear Sir:* You will please accept my resignation as one of the trustees of Illinois College, and to prevent all misunderstanding about the cause of my resignation, I beg leave to say that it is exclusively on account of a conviction on my mind that the pres-

ident and most, if not all, the professors of this institution are Abolitionists, and are engaged in disseminating those dangerous and exciting principles in the State, and from recent evidences, I have reason to believe have infused them extensively in the minds of the students. Believing that it is wrong, morally and politically, for any citizen or public institution to teach or advocate doctrines or principles in this country which can not be carried into practice peaceably without violating the constitution of the United States, or forcibly, without civil war, the risk of disunion, and the destruction of our free and happy government, I can not with my present convictions of the course pursued by its faculty, consistently hold any connection with this institution.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH DUNCAN."

On the back of this letter he writes: "Did not deliver this letter, as Judge Lockwood assures me that I was mistaken about abolition principles having been taught in the college, and I agreed not to resign for the present, but stated my determination not to remain connected with the college one moment after the president or any professor shall hereafter preach, teach, or lecture on that subject.

JOSEPH DUNCAN."

Education and temperance were two subjects in which Gov. Duncan always felt a deep interest. Some of his public acts and utterances relative to these questions I have already read to you. During the whole term of his office as governor he annually gave (\$500) one-half of his salary for the establishment and support of an Illinois temperance paper. I have recently seen the constitution, list of charter members, and subscription list of an early, perhaps the first, temperance society organized in Jacksonville, July 24, 1837. The largest amount subscribed by any other member was three dollars. The subscription of Mr. Duncan was twenty dollars, to be deducted from eight hundred dollars already subscribed.

In the report of Nathaniel Coffin as treasurer of Illinois College, March 14, 1834, I find an acknowledgment of a donation of

\$500 from Joseph Duncan, and in his treasurer's report of 1836, he says: "Gov. Duncan added to his subscription \$10,000 in land." He loved Illinois College and served many years as trustee.

He was also the first president of the board of trustees of the Illinois Institution for the Education of Deaf Mutes, and held that honorable position until the day of his death. When this institution was chartered, one of the conditions of its location at Jacksonville was that the citizens of Jacksonville should donate the necessary ground. Gov. Duncan prepared a paper and headed it with a subscription of fifty dollars, and secured from others enough to make the sum of one thousand dollars. With six hundred and eighty-six dollars of the fund so subscribed, about six acres, the present site of the institution, was purchased from Judge S. D. Lockwood and David A. Smith, and the remainder of the funds was expended in making improvements.

In 1828, while in Washington, D.C., serving as sole representative in Congress from the State of Illinois, he was invited by President Adams to an informal dinner with a few friends, among them Mathew St. Clair Clarke, clerk of the house of representatives, his wife, and her sister, Miss Elizabeth Caldwell Smith, daughters of James R. Smith, a retired banker and shipping-merchant of New-York City. Miss Smith, subsequently Mrs. Joseph Duncan, kept a diary for many years and from them, prepared for the perusal of her children, some reminiscences of her early life, condensed from these, are quoted:

"Dined at President John Q. Adams'. Was introduced by William T. Carroll of Carrollton, to Gen. Joseph Duncan, member of Congress from Illinois. Henry Clay of Kentucky, who sat next to me at dinner, whispered to me that 'Duncan was not only a good-looking fellow, but what was better, he was a good son, having taken care of his widowed mother and educated his sister and two younger brothers.'"

To show the style of dress in that day, I will quote further. She says: "I wore to the dinner a crimson-silk dress, thread-lace ruffle at my throat, no ornaments, embroidered-silk stockings, and

satin slippers the color of my dress. My hair I wore in three puffs on the top of my head, three puffs on each side; a high carved tortoise-shell comb."

The acquaintance thus formed proved mutually agreeable, and after a short acquaintance and shorter engagement, Joseph Duncan and Elizabeth C. Smith were married, May 13, 1828, by Rev. Ruben Post. Condensed from Mrs. Duncan's reminiscence is a brief account of their wedding journey and early-married life in Jacksonville, illustrating the condition of society in the West at that time: "My sister, Mrs. Clarke, gave us an elegant wedding. She entertained with ease and grace, as few women could. Her house was well arranged for such entertainments.

"It was an elegant but select wedding. Many army-and-navy friends of Mr. Duncan were present. I had three bridesmaids; they were Miss Mary B. Smith of New York, Cornelia Barber, whose father was secretary of war, Isabella Smith, granddaughter of Mrs. Isabella Graham. The groomsmen were Wm. T. Carroll, Lieut. Vinton, U.S.A., and William Blake from Indiana.

"We left for Illinois in two weeks. We crossed the mountains in a stage to Wheeling, Va., there took a steamboat to Cairo, another to St. Louis, in company with James K. Polk, a very commonplace man. At St. Louis we spent a week, by previous invitation, with Mrs. Gen. Ashley; met Mr. and Mrs. O'Fallon, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, and Dr. Farrar, old friends of Mr. Duncan's. There was not a Protestant church in the city. Rev. Salmon Giddings, a graduate of Williams College, afterward Presbyterian minister in Quincy, preached in a parlor. It went by that name, although it had a bed in it. This seemed a strange fashion, but they considered a bed a very ornamental as well as essential piece of furniture, with its high posts, often of carved mahogany, which supported the tester hung with curtains of lace or dimity or chintz, according to the wealth of the family, while a valance of the same material hid the three-step ladder which was regularly drawn out at night to enable one to mount up into it. But once you were in, you sank out of sight, and in the soft feather-bed became oblivious to the sound of voices which could be

heard through the slender partition between you and your neighbor, and you considered yourself fortunate if you had more than a curtain between you.

“St. Louis was settled by the French. The streets were narrow and dirty and the weather at that season so warm we were glad to take the little steamboat for Kaskaskia, where Mr. Duncan’s mother, Mrs. Capt. Benj. Moore, met us; also his sister, Mrs. Wm. Linn, who lived at Fountain Bluff, and had come up on horseback with a colored servant. As we were devoted to horseback riding, we took the horses and let her return by boat. When we arrived at the Bluffs at sunset, Mr. Duncan left me at the door and hurried down to the river, a mile or more distant, expecting to find his sister waiting, but the boat was detained till ten o’clock. When it grew dark I called for a light. The old negro who answered said: ‘When missus comes she is to bring some tallow, and then I will soon dip a candle.’ I begged him to do something. I could not stay alone in the dark, so he built a big fire on the hearth. From that day, or night, I was never caught without a candle and matches, and, although a troublesome thing to always think of, it once saved the lives of a whole party. We were crossing the mountains (which, by the way, I did eight times by stage or private carriage). The driver got off the road, when he called out ‘he wished that little nervous woman who he had scolded for carrying a lighted candle would hand it out that he might see where he was.’ When I did so he found the front wheel within an inch of a frightful precipice. Another step of the horses would have plunged us hundreds of feet below.

“Late in July, 1828, we turned our faces eastward. Col. Thos. S. Mather and his wife took us in their carriage to Carlyle, where they were going to visit. From Carlyle we took a stage to Vandalia, and from there we came to Jacksonville and spent a few days. After I had rested and slipped into a white-mull dress, as I was standing on the door-steps, an old man said to me: ‘Sis, what brought you to this rough country?’ I replied: ‘I followed my husband.’ ‘Men change their place of abode from ambition

and interest, women from affection.' They all seemed surprised, for they had supposed the girlish figure before them was Mr. Duncan's daughter. He was fourteen years older, though he never looked old, for he had a fine complexion and a mouth full of sound white teeth. He had brown eyes and hair which inclined to curl. He was tall, had broad shoulders, and a commanding person. As Hon. John Todd Stuart remarked, 'A man you would call handsome.' He had dimples in each cheek, which, as he did not wear a beard, added much to the sweet expression of his mouth and made his smile a very winning one.

"From Jacksonville we took a stage through this State and Indiana over a rough corduroy road, through Michigan and Ohio to Cleveland. The lake was so rough and the boat so poor we hired a wagon and coasted the lake to Buffalo; from there in a stage to Albany, and from there to New York by boat, and from New York to Washington, D.C., by stage. We were weeks in reaching home. I was delighted to get back to civilization. We met while in the West as refined, well-educated people as we would meet in any society in the world, but the country was so very rough and the uneducated people were so coarse and unrefined to one who judged people by their dress and their manner. It took me years to learn to love and appreciate them as I did afterward when living among them. Many of the people I met on my journeys were very rude and ignorant, turning my trunks inside out, trying on my clothes, and cutting patterns of them, often injuring them past use."

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan remained in Washington, D. C., until Aug. 1, 1830, when they returned to Jacksonville. Quoting again from Mrs. Duncan's reminiscences: "We drove up to the house of John Leeper, southeast of town. In two days we came into town. Murray McConnel, Esq., had said we could sleep in his office and take our meals at the inn. The next day, court being in session, the office was filled with men before I was up. That day we moved to Mathew Stacy's attic, as there was no room in the inn. The ceiling was so low I could not stand up in it to dress. I am only four feet five inches in height, so one can im-



agine what Mr. Duncan, who is six feet tall, could do in such a room. After one day here, and thanking Mr. Stacy, whose kindness we never forgot, we moved three miles east of town to Mr. James Kerr's. Four weeks from the day we arrived here, Mr. Duncan had our cottage ready for us. It stood at the edge of the grove, just west of the present home, surrounded by elm trees, from which we gave it the name of 'Elm Grove.' This cottage was the first frame-house in the village. Though rude in exterior, it often afforded shelter to the weary traveler. It was in truth 'wedded love's first home.'

"The house had three rooms and a square entry with a window in it. Each room had a large open fireplace, which added much to the cheeriness of the house. Our table never lacked for wild game. Mr. Duncan often went out before breakfast and brought in enough to last for several days. Game was not only plenty, but the wild-cats and the wolves prowled through the woods. Cake, iced and set out back of the house, more than once had the icing licked off by the wolves, though they did not eat the cake. The cry of the wild-cat so resembles that of a child that more than once my husband rose and listened in the night, fearing some one was in distress.

"Indians were frequent visitors as they passed through the country from one point to another. A few trinkets and some food would generally satisfy them, though sometimes they were troublesome, coming just as a meal was prepared, when they would eat it all.

"The country was wild. We never rode out without seeing snakes, most of them harmless. There was a great number of nuts and wild fruit in the grove north of our cottage, among them the wild crab-apple, black and red haws, wild cherry and mulberry, gooseberry, strawberry, pawpaw, and wild grape. There were also hickory trees, walnut trees, and hazel-nuts. We had a fine bed of strawberries which we transplanted from the woods and which, by cultivation, grew very large. The woods in the spring, with the red bud and apple-blossoms, were like fairyland, and in the fall the trees hung with the bitter-sweet and wild-grape vines loaded with fruit.

"The wild flowers were abundant, from the blue-and-yellow violet, spring beauty, and blue bells to the rich fall flowers which waved in the winds across the praires like gay plumes of yellow, crimson, and blue. The streams around here were muddy most of the year, but Nature, as if ashamed of such dirty water, bordered them with flags and lillies of the richest tints, white, yellow, purple, dark-blue, and crimson. The prairie-grass was so tall that often in crossing a prairie you could not discover you were going to meet any one until they were right upon you. In traveling with Mr. Duncan in early times, more than once when he discovered fire in the distance, he burned a large place around the carriage, for fear the fire would sweep over us and we be burned."

In Joseph Duncan's diary of August, 1830, he says: "In Jacksonville attended church; gave a donation to a Presbyterian church which was started March 15, 1830, by Rev. J. M. Ellis." I have here the original subscription list, and for members of that church who are present it may not be without interest to them to know that the building-committee were John P. Wilkinson, W. C. Posey, S. D. Lockwood, John Leeper, James Kerr, and Bedford Brown. The ground was donated by Dennis Rockwell, Esq. Some paid their subscriptions in material and labor, or both. In that way John Leeper subscribed seventy-five dollars; Thomas Prentiss, twenty dollars; Bedford Brown, thirty dollars; Edwin A. Mears, twenty dollars; James Kerr, forty dollars; Elliot Stevenson, ten dollars; J. Clark, five dollars or labor; the others paid cash. In all, three hundred dollars was raised, a good beginning, as these people all had to build homes for their families.

I quote again from Mrs. Duncan's reminiscences: "In 1833, came back to Jacksonville again, with my little boy St. Clair and his nurse, Maria; Mary with Milly, her nurse. This was the summer of the cholera here. St. Clair had it. Dr. Reed carried him through it, Mr. Duncan acting as nurse, administering every dose of medicine with his own hands, and did not leave him for a moment until he was better. Dr. Reed was a kind physician and a good man. Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Conn's half-sister,

and her two children died of cholera in one week, while her husband, Rev. J. M. Ellis was from home. Mr. Ellis was our pastor. He lived in a log-cabin on West-State Street, west of his church, which stood on the northwest corner of Church Street; had been removed there from down town, and was a frame building, three windows on the east and west of it, two south doors with three elevated seats between them for the choir, led by Mr. Carlton Perry, and composed of Miss E. Wolcott, afterward Mrs. Perry; her sister Hannah, afterward Rev. Mrs. Wm. Kirby; Mrs. John P. Wilkinson; Mrs. Judge S. D. Lockwood; and Julia Conn.

"In May, 1833, we entertained T. M. Post, nephew of my beloved pastor in Washington, Rev. Reuben Post, the same that united us in marriage, the same that found me a girl very fond of dancing and gay society, and that led me to give it all up and be a Christian, it being one of the requirements of the Presbyterian church, though I felt sure, in regard to simple dancing, my father's views on that subject were correct, for in my childhood's home after we had our dance, at ten o'clock the piano was closed, the servants called in, the family Bible opened, and, although we used Rouse's version of the Psalms, singing of the dolorous music never affected unpleasantly our dreams, after kissing our parents good-night we retired refreshed in body and mind.

"Mr. T. M. Post came to us the day Mr. Duncan had a barn-raising. About twelve or fifteen men were to have their dinner. Mr. Duncan constructed a table out of plank nailed to the trees back in the grove and the men stood around it. I sat on a chair placed on a store box, to bring me up on a level with the rest of them. Maria was a good cook, and gave them a good meal. Mr. Post enjoyed our little home after the long journey from the East. He spoke of waking in the night and passing his hands over the linen pillow-cases and sheets and feeling as if he was in heaven.

"1830 was the winter of the deep snow. Mr. Duncan was in Congress. His mother staid with me in my cottage. Eunice Conn, then but a child, came home with me the night before.

She cried in the morning when she found the snow up above the window-sills, fearing she would be buried alive. There came a heavy sleet-storm, forming a crust, so that for several days we rode over the worm fences from one house to another.

"In the fall, we returned to Washington, Mr. Duncan in Congress. In 1834, Mr. Duncan was elected governor of Illinois. We came West to remain. He had a close-carriage fitted up with a spring-bed, and I was brought out West on it. I was in very delicate health. Another carriage followed with my three children, St. Clair, Mary, and Nannie, Cousin Ann Caldwell—daughter of Elias Boudinot Caldwell, clerk of the supreme court, Washington, D.C.—an English nurse, and John McClusky for driver. \* \* 1835, moved into the house. It has been over a year being built. The plan was drawn from Mrs. M. St. C. Clarke's house, only made smaller.

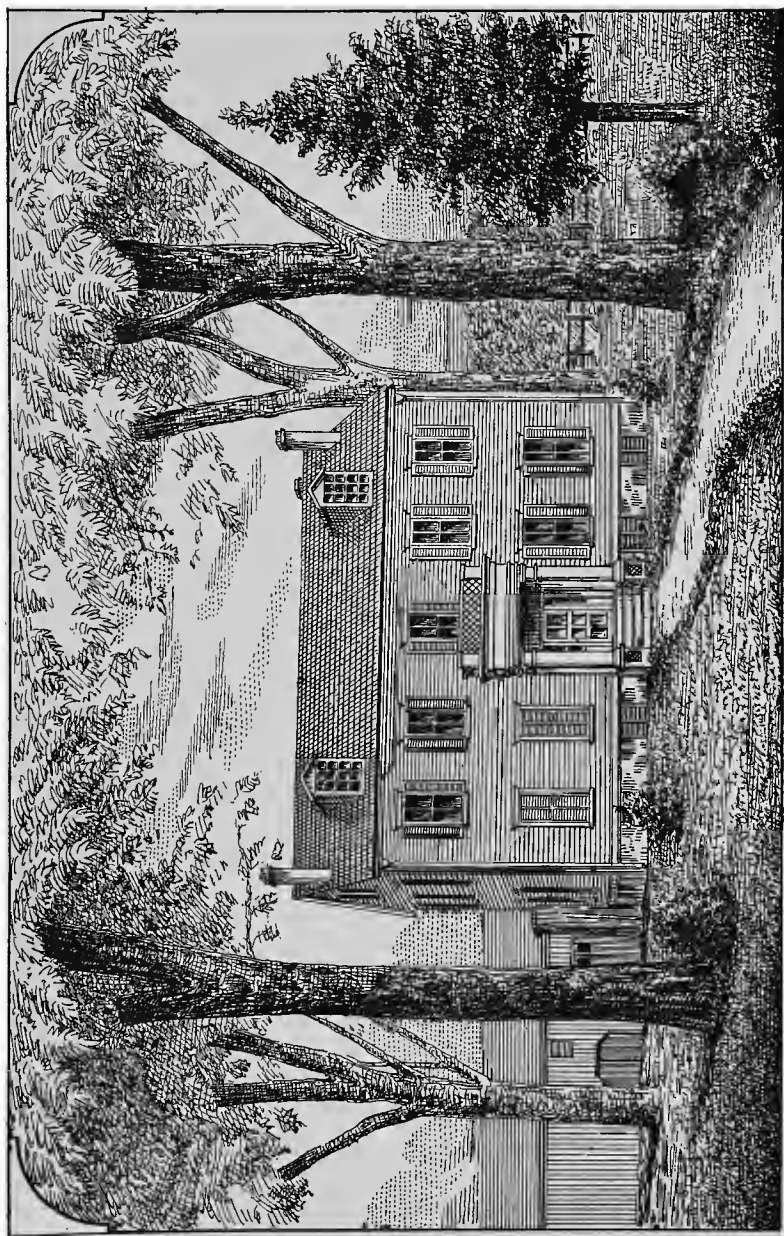
"October, 1835, Joseph Duncan, Jr., was born; baptized Nov. 5, 1835; gave him his father's name. His father united with the First Presbyterian church the same day.

"June, 1837, we entertained Daniel Webster, his wife, and niece. Mr. Duncan gave him a barbecue down in the grove, northwest of the house; roasted a steer whole. [The old tree under which he stood still stands in the centre of Lafayette Avenue and Croghan Street, and should be protected by our city fathers by an iron railing]. Webster made a most eloquent speech, as was his wont. He took the people by storm. Cheer after cheer echoed and reëchoed through the grove. Having a little baby girl three weeks old, I did not venture on the ground. We had a delightful evening. 'T. M. Post and wife, Judge and Mrs. S. D. Lockwood, their lovely niece, Miss Mary Nash [now wife of Hon. John Todd Stuart of Springfield], were present, and many others. We entertained so much company that the colored cook often said: 'Massa Joe, all this here house lacks of being a hotel is the hanging out de sign.'"

Mr. Duncan, by his energy and thrift, had already, at the date of his marriage, added largely to his moderate patrimony, but his wife brought to him what was then considered a large fortune.











Mrs. Duncan's estate was valued at one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. By the will of her father, one-third of her estate only was to be paid to her on attaining her majority; the remaining two-thirds was to be invested for her during her life and paid to her children when the youngest should become twenty-one. The whole estate was placed by the executors in the hands of Gov. Duncan, and invested by him with his own money in real estate in Chicago, Sandusky, Michigan City, Jacksonville, and lands throughout Central Illinois.

As he had received two-thirds of the estate to be invested in accordance with the provisions of the will of her father, James R. Smith, Mr. Duncan conveyed to Rev. J. M. Sturtevant, as trustee for his wife and children, property in and near Jacksonville, Ill., which had cost about seventy thousand dollars, and upon which he then expected to expend the remaining thirty thousand dollars of the fund to be so invested. Mrs. Duncan, an invalid, with a large family of small children, accustomed to exercise a liberal hospitality, found her income after his death too small for her support and the education of her children, and much of the trust property had greatly depreciated in value and was sold at a great sacrifice under decrees of court before the period fixed for the distribution of the property had arrived. Among the parcels sold was the Park House, then called the Mansion House, the two stores west of it, and the property at the northwest corner of the square, etc.

As has been already mentioned, Mr. Duncan's sister married William Linn, who held the office of receiver of the land-office, and who proved a defaulter. Mr. Duncan was one of his bondsmen, and when suit was instituted by the United States, proved to be the only solvent one. An investigation of the affairs of his office showed that Mr. Linn was already largely in arrears to the government at the date of his reappointment and the signing of his second bond by Mr. Duncan. There were not wanting those that said that his reappointment under such circumstances was a scheme of the Jackson men to break down Duncan, who they knew would remain surety on the bond of his brother-in-law.

That such was the hope and expectation of the Democratic leaders in Washington was once admitted to the writer by the Hon. Murray McConnel.

On June 8, 1841, three judgments were rendered in the district court of the United States against Joseph Duncan and other sureties on the bond of Linn, aggregating the sum of \$76,714.53. Under executions issued upon these judgments, all of Gov. Duncan's fortune and that of his wife, except the property conveyed to Dr. Sturtevant as trustee, were swept away, and yet less than thirty-five thousand dollars was realized to the government and credited on the judgment. Thousands of acres of the best and most carefully-selected lands in Illinois were sold at ten cents an acre; some of the handsomest residence property in Jacksonville at three and four dollars a lot, and nearly forty acres comprising Duncan's Addition to Chicago, now in the heart of the city, were sold at from five to seven dollars a lot. Gov. Duncan's death came so soon after the rendition of the judgments, Jan. 15, 1844, that he was unable to do anything to avert the severity of the blow.

Hon. William Thomas, who was appointed administrator of the estate, did all in his power to effect a compromise with the administration, and if his wise counsels had been followed every dollar of the judgment would have been paid and a handsome estate left untouched. The harsh severity with which the collection of these judgments was pushed brought inconvenience if not suffering, upon many others.

Gov. Duncan, engaged in carrying on a large business, was necessarily more or less in debt to others, and as the government always takes precedence over other creditors, their claims were left wholly unpaid, to the great grief and mortification of Mrs. Duncan.

As has been already mentioned in Mrs. Duncan's reminiscences, Mr. Duncan united with the Presbyterian church, Nov. 5, 1835. The Rev. Mr. Dashell was then pastor of the church. In 1836, a difficulty arose between Mr. Dashell and some of the members of this church, which resulted in Mr. Dashell's resignation of the

pastorate and removal from Jacksonville. Mr. Duncan had become very warmly attached to his pastor, and was deeply grieved at the quarrel which resulted in his removal, and an effort was made by him, and others who sympathized with him, to organize another Presbyterian church, but was unsuccessful. Mr. Duncan then took his letter, March 21, 1837, and united with the Presbyterian church in Pisgah, of which the Rev. Mr. James Gallagher was pastor, and continued a member of it until his death.

Mr. Duncan's religious character was expressed rather by his acts than his words. He was rather reticent in relation to his religious experience. It seemed too deep and sacred to be talked about. The following letter, however, written to his wife while they were seeking to organize a new church, will give some idea of his standard of Christianity:

“VANDALIA, ILL., Jan. 22, 1837.

“DEAR ELIZABETH: I was truly disappointed that Judge Lockwood came in the stage last night without St. Clair. I received your letter. I most sincerely regret that there exists so much difficulty in organizing the new church, but it all weighs not a feather with me. I believe it is right. It certainly agrees with my feelings, and I feel determined to go forward. As to the age of Mr. Ensley Goudy, it makes no difference. I can see no such objections made in the Scriptures, and as to the numbers with which we begin—it is less than no objection. God has promised where two or three gather together in His name he will be in the midst of them. I have always thought there were too many Christians influenced by fashion, so if we have but few, and those unpretending Christians, to begin our church we may feel our weakness and thereby be taught humility. I assure you I would prefer organizing our church with Mr. Goudy as the only elder than with ten rich influential men to fill such offices. Mr. Bergen has but one elder, I understand, and he is a young man—for my part I like small beginnings. If our hearts are right, all will be well with us. It is getting dark, so I must stop writing. We had a delightful sermon today from a Methodist. It was a truly

good sermon. Write me by every mail. I received a letter from you last night, so I have nothing to complain of.

"May God bless and preserve you all is the prayer of your affectionate husband. Love to all. JOSEPH DUNCAN."

Gov. Duncan died at his home in Jacksonville, Jan. 15, 1844, after a short but painful sickness, leaving a widow, thirty-five years of age, and seven children, but three of whom now survive, Mary L., wife of Charles E. Putnam of Davenport, Ia., Joseph Duncan of Chicago, and the writer.

To Hon. John T. Stuart of Springfield, Ill., and other of father's friends, I am much indebted for their kind response to letters written them.

Rev. Dr. Edward Beecher of Brooklyn, N.Y., writes: "My reminiscences of your father are all of the most pleasant kind. I was associated with him as one of the trustees of Illinois College for fourteen years, and for that I regarded with deep interest his life and influence as a statesman, and in all the relations of social life my feelings toward him were those of absolute confidence in his integrity and in his wisdom as a counsellor in every good work, as well as in his energy as a worker in the great cause of education in all its departments. My intercourse with him and with your mother in social life was always delightful. There was the refinement and intelligence of sincere Christian fellowship that at once inspired confidence and called out reciprocal affection."

I will close this rambling sketch with a letter from Dr. Truman M. Post of St. Louis, Mo., written in reply to a request for some reminiscences of my father. He says:

"DEAR FRIEND: I first met your father in Washington, D.C., in the winter of 1832-3. He was then a member of Congress from the State of Illinois, in about middle life, a fine specimen of physical manhood, with frame massive, muscular, and finely proportioned, with an eye dark and expressive, a mein, in general, resolute, kindly, genial, brave, noble—withal quite a handsome man. Illinois, though admitted into the Union some fourteen years previously, was yet, with the comparatively slow progress

of immigration and settlement in those times, still a new State. Only the year before, it had been the seat of an Indian war.

"Coming thus from a new State of vast and magnificent possibilities and aspirations, he moreover attracted marked attention as a hero of the defence of Fort Stephenson in 1813, for which he had been publicly honored in a memorial of his gallantry with the presentation of a sword by Congress. [Feb. 13, 1834].

"I was introduced to him, and also to your mother, by my uncle, the Rev. Reuben Post of Washington City, who, from his residence as pastor of, I think, the First Presbyterian Church in that city, and his position as chaplain in Congress, had extensive opportunity for acquaintance with its members. Your mother, a young married lady, recently from New-York City, from a family of wealth, culture, and social position, herself cultivated, amiable, devotedly pious, and of fine personal attractions, was, I think, spending the winter with him in Washington, was a member of my uncle's church, and much esteemed and admired by him. It is my impression that it was through her primarily that he first became especially acquainted with your father.

"I was then just ready to enter life with the profession of law, but with 'the world all before me where to choose.' I was exceedingly perplexed in determining the selection of my future home. The West attracted me by its newness, its young life, and its magnificent promise. With the mode of travel and intelligence then possessed, Illinois was farther off than India and China are now, and almost as strange to us of the northeast Atlantic border as the centre of the Dark Continent is at present. In vague rumor and legend of its natural richness and beauty it was a sort of wonderland, while its mystery of a future of vast possibilities made it, to the imagination of a young man, a dreamland of magnificent idealization and aspiration.

"The influence and persuasion of friends meantime, and the attractions of a high type of social culture and advantageous inducements offered me by Senator Rivers of Virginia, drew me strongly toward Richmond, Va. But through the influence and representations of your father, I was induced to determine I

would visit him in Illinois before permanently settling elsewhere. In view of this fact, I have ever regarded your father as one through whose influence Providence has permanently touched the history of my life, turning its course toward a new world and fixing its field in the then far West.

"In pursuance of this plan, in May, 1833, I visited Jacksonville, Ill., then an extreme out-settlement toward the Northwest. In this region I found your father at his home, not far from where the family residence now stands, about one mile from the town, which was then a crowded village of log-cabins. His home, a small initial pioneer structure, quite shanty-like compared with those which afterward arose in its place. It was the only attempt at a wooden frame-dwelling I can now recollect in that vicinity.

"I remember as I approached it I was much struck with the contrast it presented to your mother's former luxurious surroundings and delicate culture, and to your father's reputation and reality of proprietorship of large wealth; and I saw I was looking upon the beginning of a new world.

"I found your father and mother under the shade of large trees in front of their house, surrounded by a company, mainly of crude, rough, stalwart men with manner, garb, and speech of plain and quite primitive type, with bronzed, strongly-marked, shrewd faces, the backwoodsmen, political leaders of the newly-emerging commonwealth. It was near the dinner hour, and rough tables were set in the shadow of the lofty trees. Then, as we gathered around them, I shall never forget how your mother, a little, delicate, brave woman, solitary amid that company of men, arose and, as your father was not at that time a communicant in the church, offered thanks and asked the divine blessing on our repast. The scene and the incident give us a glimpse into a share of the life of those times, and also characteristic of the Christian heroism of your gentle, sweet, true-hearted mother. I never forgot it. It affected me permanently in various ways, besides impressing me ever with a high admiration for her Christian principle and bravery.

"My residence for fourteen years after I became connected

with the College was in the near vicinage of your father's house. I saw him frequently, and was with him and his family in various events and fortunes during these years, years of the birth of his children and of the death of some of them, one of whom, sweet little St. Clair, I remember watching by night, as his little life 'was wearing away to the land of the leal.'

"Years of cholera and fever, of private and public prosperities and calamities, of gubernatorial honors and administration, of political excitements, contests and policies, during years with such contests my memory bears his impress, though not always with distinct or minute tracing. But some scenes distinctly marked of various interest, of the funeral or the festival, come up from out those far-distant years. Amid them, one evening of unique and memorable interest I distinctly recall spent by myself and my wife with your father and mother and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webster and their daughter, at your father's house. Mr. Webster had changed somewhat since I had seen him in Washington, in the pride of his strength in the great constitutional battle of the Titans, wrestling with Calhoun and those of his school. Time, with its work and wear and worriment, was telling somewhat on him, yet still his stalwart strength was on him, and perhaps his manhood, as well as his ambition, was never greater. I shall never forget his conversation with me on the 'Book of Job' that evening, by your father's fireside, and he will ever continue as one of the grand historic figures I met with in those years in your father's home of princely hospitalities.

"During those years, your father made a public profession of religion and united with the church; of the genuineness of which profession I had proof at the close of his life. I was with him as he died and I received the confession of his dying moments. I shall never forget that night nor the figures and the grouping around that bed of death. The night winds were out, and there was a stir in the elements, as seemingly in sympathy with the hour when a great and strong soul was departing. The blasts came in gusts, fitfully, now sighing and sobbing, and now with loud and mighty wail, sweeping through the forest and shaking the window-casements.

"It was the last hour. The sword given him by an admiring and grateful country hanging on the wainscoting over the bed of death, and all the tokens and hopes of mortal fame, what were they all at that hour to one from the heavens and the earth forever passing away? One consciously in the outdrift of the eternities? That form of grandest manhood, strongest and noblest of all its physical types that were grouped around him in that chamber and seemingly assuring its possessor of the longest life, was in the wrestle with death, sinking lower and lower into the everlasting silence.

"And now the last words have been spoken, the last look given to his loved wife and the sad faces around him; the communion with time and earth is over, all save one utterance. Just as the pale, silent seal was set, I asked him: 'Governor Duncan, is Christ precious to you at this hour?' Brokenly, but to our hearing distinctly, came the response, the last words spoken by him till the earth and sea give up their dead: 'Ever precious, ever precious.' And so the soul of our prince and brother passed to his Father and God.

"Such are some of the reminiscences and grouping of scenes that come up at times with the days, long ago, of my Illinois life. I send them, as you request, as furnishing some glimpses into the tenor and quality of that life to which 'your life-stream tracks its parent lake.' A life which nearly half a century since passed from this world away; and yet not away, I trust; it will, I hope, descend as a precious heirloom to his children, and to his children's children, and to coming times, a memory which a grateful country will not let die.

"I have thus, my dear friend, endeavored (would it had been with abler faculty) to catch and photograph some glimpses into those now far-gone, fast-fading years; glimpses such as at times come to me in my solitary hours, and especially when I walk your city cemetery that outskirts your beautiful town among the graves of the loved friends of other days, now sleeping there so still in the chambers of silence; and among them a family group of well-remembered names, amidst whom repose, waiting the



resurrection morning, the mortal form of one whose thoughts and will and voice and act are forever incorporated with the early story of Illinois, and whose record and stamp will be upon the land through its coming centuries of history.

“With sincere respect and affection, yours truly,

“T. M. POST.”

“ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23, 1884.

## APPENDIX.

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### RESOLUTIONS OF A TOWN MEETING:

"JACKSONVILLE, ILL., Jan. 15, 1844.

"Intelligence of the death of Gov. Duncan having been communicated to the citizens of Jacksonville on Tuesday morning, a town-meeting was called at the Morgan House to offer a becoming tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased. At three o'clock p.m., the citizens assembled and a meeting was organized by calling to the chair Dr. B. Gillett, and the appointment of William Hodges, Secretary.

"Capt. John Henry then rose, and in a brief and appropriate address explained the object of the meeting and adverted to the moral worth and distinguished public services of the deceased. When he had concluded his remarks, on motion of Dr. A. Smith, a committee consisting of Col. Wm. B. Warren, Capt. John Henry, and Murray McConnel, Esq., was appointed to embody in writing an expression of the sentiments of those assembled. The committee retired and after a brief absence, returned and through their chairman, Col. Warren, made the following report:

"The death of the Hon. Joseph Duncan, which occurred at his residence near this place on last evening, is an event sincerely to be deplored by all who have known him, by all who entertained a just sense of his merit and usefulness. The best, the brightest ornament and most valued member of our society is gone! No more shall he mingle with those of his family, his friends, or his acquaintances, who venerated and loved him! No more shall modest worth be encouraged or the less worthy be instructed or restrained by his living example. How incalculable the loss! How great the chasm in the circle of his former-day walks! Now that he is no more, the sad event reflects more

vividly and strong to our view. His many and amiable virtues, we contemplate them, and our hearts glow and expand with feeling of delight when we view him, either in relation of husband, parent, or friend. They were all fondness. With his children, we have seen him mingle in childish sociality and sportiveness, returning their fond endearments with equal simplicity and innocence. In the walks of both private and public life, a modest and unassuming spirit was his peculiar characteristic.

“As a private citizen or a public officer, he was a man of uncommon decision of character. He had private interests as other men, but if circumstances required, these were ever the victim of principle. He indeed dared to be *honest* in the worst of times. This is no flattering portrait; it is strictly true. Let his family, his friends, and acquaintances wipe away their tears, for the memory of his virtues lives and abides in the hearts of all. Let us endeavor to emulate his bright example and indulge the hope that we, like him, when called upon in the providence of God to give an account of our stewardship on earth, may merit and obtain that reception awarded only to the virtuous, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

“*Resolved*, That Cornelius Hook, A. Buckley, and J. O. King be appointed a committee to request that the business houses of the town be closed on tomorrow from 11 until 4 o'clock p.m.

“*Resolved*, That W. B. Warren, James Dunlap, and Dr. A. Smith be a committee to present to the bereaved family of the deceased a copy of the foregoing, and to assure them of the deep commiseration felt by this community.

“*Resolved*, That the papers of this place be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting.’

“All of which was unanimously adopted. On motion, the meeting adjourned.

BAZIL GILLETT, Chairman.

WM. HODGES, Secretary.”

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“JACKSONVILLE, March 7, 1844.

“MADAM: We herewith place at your disposal fifty copies of

Prof. Sturtevant's discourse at the funeral of your lamented husband, and beg to assure you of our sincere regard for the welfare of yourself and family.

In behalf of the committee of citizens, your obedient servants,

DAVID A. SMITH,

"Mrs. E. C. DUNCAN.

JAMES BERDAN."

At a meeting of the trustees of Illinois College, July 11, 1844, the following resolutions, prepared and offered by Prof. Sturtevant, were read and unanimously passed:

"WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death Hon. Joseph Duncan, late a member of this board, we deem it appropriate, as it certainly is accordant with our feelings, to spread on our books a record of our deep sense of the loss sustained by the college, by the cause of learning, and by society at large in the sudden death, while yet in the very prime and vigor of his years, of the pure and disinterested patriot, the active and liberal patron of the cause of learning and general education, the enterprising and public-spirited citizen, and the sincere Christian.

"While we would hear and heed this solemn admonition of Providence to do with our might what our hands find to do, we would also express our sincere and hearty sympathy for his afflicted widow and her fatherless children as well as his aged mother and other near relatives in this mournful bereavement which they have been called to experience. Attest,

"NATH. COFFIN, Secretary."

"COLLEGE HILL, July 25, 1844.

"To Mrs. E. C. DUNCAN,

"*Dear Madam:* By order of the trustees, I present you the within testimonials of their sympathy with yourself and family in your most afflictive bereavement.

"I am, very respectfully, your friend, NATH. COFFIN,

"Secretary and Trustee."

## THOMAS DUNCAN.

Thomas Duncan, born in Kaskaskia, Ill., April 14, 1819, was appointed a first lieutenant in the Mounted Rifles (now Third Cavalry) May 27, 1846; employed on recruiting service at Vandalia, Ill., until November; landed with his regiment at Vera Cruz, assigned a position in line of investment of that place March 13, 1847; promoted captain, March 15, 1848, while serving with his company in the City of Mexico; on duty at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., 1849; marched with his company to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, same year, remaining there until Sept., 1851; then sent to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to purchase horses for his regiment; rejoined his company at Los Olmitas, Tex., in Dec., 1852; continued on duty in that State until latter part of 1856; with regiment at Fort Union, N. M., and on duty in that territory until 1862, being actively employed in field and garrison duties; commanded Forts Burgwin and Massachusetts, and had charge of the construction of and commanded Fort Garland, Col.; participated in the Navajo expedition of 1858; commanded, in May, 1861, the escort for the commissioners who were appointed to visit the Comanches, and was engaged (commanding) in a combat with Satanta's Comanches, about fifty miles south of Fort Union, on May 29, defeating them with severe loss; promoted major of his regiment, to date from June 10, 1861, and was employed on field-service until July 30, 1861, when he was assigned to Fort Wise, Col., where he had station until called to Fort Craig, N. M., to command his regiment and the post during the winter 1861-2; commanded the cavalry forces at the battle of Val Verde, N. M., Feb. 21, 1862, and rendered conspicuous service by supporting Hall's Battery against the repeated charges of the enemy; was severely wounded (a cannon-ball grazing his head and breaking the skull) in an engagement with the enemy near Albuquerque, N. M., April 8, 1862; unfit for duty until April 25, 1863, when he was assigned to duty as assistant-provost-marshal general of the State of Iowa, and later, chief mustering-and-disbursing officer in that State; was thus employed until promoted lieut.-col. of Fifth

Cavalry to date July 28, 1866, when he joined the regiment at Nashville, Tenn., and commanded that station from October, 1866, to Sept., 1868; also commanded the District of Nashville from Dec., 1867, to Sept., 1868, when he was relieved and ordered to field-service in the Department of the Platte; arrived at Fort McPherson, Neb., in May, 1869, where he had station until August, when he was assigned to the command of the Republican-River expedition which was disbanded Oct. 31; he then conducted a battalion of the regiment to Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, where he arrived in Nov., and had station until May, 1871; he was then placed in charge of the construction of Fort Sidney, Neb., where he was in command and employed when the regiment was ordered to Arizona Nov., 1871; his health would not permit him to accompany the regiment, surgeons warning him that with his broken skull he could not live in a hot climate.

On Jan. 15, 1873, he was retired from active service "for wounds received in the line of duty"; he was made a brevet lieutenant-col. to date from April 8, 1862, for gallant and meritorious services at the action near Albuquerque, N. M., and a brevet-col. and a brevet brig.-gen. to date from March 13, 1865, for meritorious services during the War of the Rebellion. His home after he retired was in Washington, D. C., where he died suddenly Jan. 7, 1887.

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#### JOSEPH DUNCAN PUTNAM.

Mrs. Mary L. D. Putnam has been the mother of eleven children, one daughter and ten sons, the eldest of whom bore the name of his grandfather, Joseph Duncan. He was born Oct. 18, 1855, in the Duncan homestead in Jacksonville, Ill., and died of consumption at his home in Davenport, Ia., Dec. 10, 1881, at the age of twenty-six, after a continuous struggle of eight years with the insidious disease which finally overcame him.

His short but useful life was devoted to scientific research, more especially in the department of entomology. When but a boy of sixteen, he was elected a member of "The Davenport

Academy of Natural Sciences," in Davenport, Ia., and was for many years its corresponding secretary, and held the office of president of the academy at the time of his death. The papers read by him before that association, as well as those furnished by him for publication in scientific journals, all indicated thorough investigation, accuracy of expression, and devotion to scientific truth. His most important investigations were never completed, but his notes, memoranda, and unfinished manuscripts serve to show how much the scientific world lost by his untimely death. The following list, from "The Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Sciences," includes his principal publications:

1. 1875. "Report upon the Reconnoissance of Northwestern Wyoming, \* \* made in the summer of 1873, by Wm. A. Jones, Capt. of Engineers."—"Entomological Report, by J. D. Putnam." Pp. 315-8. This report includes a list of coleoptera, a catalogue of Indian names for insects, and a catalogue of Indian names for colors. The chapter on meteorology (pp. 58-81) is compiled mainly from Mr. Putnam's observations.
2. 1876. "Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences." Vol. I.—"The Maple-Bark Louse (*Iecanium acervicola*)." Pp. 37-8.
3. 1876. *Ibid.* "Hieroglyphics observed in Summit Anon, Utah, and on Little Popoagie River in Wyoming." Pp. 143-5. Pl. xxvii.-xxx.
4. 1876. *Ibid.* "Lists of Iowa *Coleoptera* and *Lepidoptera*." Pp. 169-77.
5. 1876. *Ibid.* "Lists of Colorado *Coleoptera* and *Lepidoptera*." Pp. 177-87.
6. 1876. *Ibid.* "Report on the Insects collected by Capt. Jones' Expedition to Northwestern Wyoming in 1873." Pp. 187-91.
7. 1876. "Indian Names for Insects." P. 192.
8. 1876. *Ibid.* "Report on the Insects collected in the Vicinity of Spring-Lake Villa, Utah County, Utah, during the summer of 1875." Pp. 193-205.
9. 1876. *Ibid.* "List of *Hymenoptera* collected by J. Duncan

Putnam, \* \* with descriptions of new species. By E. T. Cresson." Pp. 206-11.

10. 1876. *Ibid.* "List of *Orthoptera* collected by J. Duncan Putnam \* \* during the summers of 1872-5, chiefly in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming Territories. By Cyrus Thomas." Pp. 249-64.

11. 1876. *Ibid.* "(Entomological) Notes." Pp. 265-7. Pl. xxxv., xxxvi.

The foregoing papers were separately issued under the title of "Entomological Contributions, from the Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, Vol. I."

12. 1877. "Popular Science Monthly," Vol. X., "Insects and Flowers in Colorado." Pp. 612-14.

13. 1877. "Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences," Vol. II., Part I., "Horned Toads in the Collection of the Academy." P. 22.

14. 1877. *Ibid.* "On the young of a species of *Lycosa*." P. 23-4.

15. 1877. *Ibid.* "Remarks on *Galeodes pallipes*, Say." Pp. 35-6.

16. 1880. *Ibid.* Vol. II., Part II., "Biological and other notes on *Coccidæ*." Pp. 293-347. Pl. xii., xiii.

The last-named paper was also issued separately. The species treated are *Pulvinaria innumerabilis* and *Aspidatus ancylus*.

17. 1880. "Transactions of the Iowa Horticultural Society," Vol. V., "Rust-producing Mites." P. 365.

18. 1880. "Proceedings of the American Association," Vol. XXIX., Boston meeting, "Notes on North-American *Galeodes*." Printed by title only. P. 671.

19. 1881. Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Sciences, Vol. I., Part II. (not yet printed), "Observations on *Galeodes*."

20. 1881. "Proceedings of the American Association, Vol. XXX., Cincinnati meeting (not yet printed), "Notes on a Bibliography of the *Galeodidæ*."

21. 1881. "Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Nat-



ural Sciences," Vol. III., Part II. (in press), "Remarks on the Habits of several Western *Cicadæ*." Pp. 67-8.

For one so young, he attained high distinction in the scientific world. The following few, selected from many letters addressed to his fellow-members of the Academy, tell somewhat of the high estimation in which he was held by other scientists. From Prof. Spencer F. Baird, secretary Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.:

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"SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE,  
"WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 20, 1881.

"SIR: In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., which conveys the painful intelligence that Prof. Joseph Duncan Putnam, president of Davenport Academy of Sciences, has been called from his earthly labors, I beg to state that while through this dispensation of Providence the Academy sustains a double loss, in that by the death of Prof. Putnam it is deprived of an honored presiding officer, and at the same time of an associate who was ever zealous for the success of the establishment, the cause of science is again called upon to mourn the departure from earth of a devoted friend and conscientious collaborator.

"Begging that you will convey to the members of the Academy and to the family and friends of Prof. Putnam the assurance that in their bereavement they have the profound sympathies of the officers of this institution. I am, very truly yours,

"SPENCER F. BAIRD, Secretary.

"W. H. PRATT, Davenport, Ia."

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From Prof. Asa Gray, Cambridge, Mass.:

"CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Jan. 4, 1882.

"MY DEAR SIR: I learn that a meeting of the Davenport Academy is convened to take notice of the death of its late corresponding secretary, Mr. Joseph Duncan Putnam. It is well that you should put upon record for future times some memorial of

the services and character of the associate who is now lost to you. Young as he was, I suppose he is to be ranked among your founders; at least, his place in your history is a very early one. Of what he did for your society, of what he accomplished for science, of the serious disadvantage under which he labored in doing this from almost life-long ill-health, of the enthusiasm which supplied the place of bodily strength, and of the fruits of his devotion which you are enjoying in the prosperity and good name of the Academy, it is quite unnecessary that I should write a word. His name and place in the science which he pursued with such devotion are made sure by being incorporated into the imperishable records which natural history builds into its very fabric as its structure rises, through the combined labors of all its gifted devotees.

“Let me only say that what struck me in my intercourse with Putnam was his sobriety of judgment and simplicity of spirit. Never have I seen a cooler and, we say, more level head borne upon such young shoulders; nor is it often that such gifts and acquisitions as his are borne with such genuine modesty by one so young and so situated. Little as I have actually been with him, I feel that I have lost a valued friend. Yet it was all along evident that he could not remain long with us, and thankful should we be that even that brief span was protracted quite beyond all ordinary expectation. Very truly yours,

“ASA GRAY.

“Messrs. PRESTON, LYNCH, and FULTON,

“Committee of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences.”

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From George Engelman, M.D., St. Louis, Mo.:

“ST. LOUIS, MO., Jan. 6, 1882.

“Messrs. PRESTON, LYNCH, and FULTON, Committee,

*Gentlemen:* Your letter of invitation was unfortunately mislaid, and I am thus prevented from being present, even by this my answer to your invitation, at the memorial meeting in honor of

my late friend, the president of your Academy, Joseph Duncan Putnam.

"I heartily sympathize with you and your institution in the irreparable loss you have sustained in the demise of your gifted young president, whose talents, zeal, and energy have already made him conspicuous, and would have achieved great success in science if a longer life had been vouchsafed to him.

"Accept my sincere condolence for the great loss you, and with you science, has sustained in the death of young Putnam.

"Yours respectfully, G. ENGELMANN."

From Prof. Samuel H. Scudder, Cambridge, Mass.:

"CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Jan. 7, 1882.

"Messrs. C. H. PRESTON and others,

Committee of the Davenport Academy,

*Gentlemen:* I regret it will not be in my power to attend the meeting you propose to hold on the 12th inst. I should be glad to testify by my presence the esteem in which I have ever held Mr. Putnam, both as a personal friend and as a fellow-student of nature. The persistent energy with which he not only undertook, but carried to completion, investigations of a serious and difficult nature, when his time was so largely occupied in the administration of a public trust of which he was, perhaps, the mainstay, and all the while laboring under the heavy disadvantage of a serious and wearing malady, can only be fully appreciated by those who understand the tax upon his strength which each of these entailed. They bring out, too, into clearer relief and more vivid light the purity of his purpose and, to those who knew him best, the gentleness of his character, which made intercourse with him a delight. Many a man of vigorous constitution would have shrunk from the labors he gladly undertook; few would have accomplished them so well. To us at the East, who look upon your affairs at a distance, and, as it were, by a bird's-eye view, it seems as if without him the Davenport Academy would never have had half so vigorous a growth, nor proved so timely and

beneficent an example to the younger communities of our country. His efforts and example have surely given it an impulse which will long enable it to sustain the character it enjoys; let us even hope for something better. At the same time, his writings are amongst the most scholarly achievements of the scientific men of the Western States, and show him to the world a modest and safe pioneer in paths of his own choosing. It is earnestly to be hoped that he left his material for the long-looked-for monograph of the Solpugidæ in such shape that the Academy can give it to the world at an early day, and that the Academy will feel this a trust which it can not rightly fail to assume. With thanks for your kind invitation, I remain, very respectfully yours,

“SAMUEL H. SCUDDER.”

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From C. V. Riley, U.-S. Entomologist, Washington, D.C.:

“WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 31, 1881.

“GENTLEMEN: As I can not be present at the meeting of the members of the Academy which is to be held in memory of its deceased president, Mr. J. Duncan Putnam, permit me in this way to express my deep-felt sorrow at the death of a friend whom I esteemed, and one so untiringly and unselfishly devoted to the interests of natural science, and so beloved by all with whom he came in contact. Of late years he battled so bravely with suffering that each time I have met him since our first meeting in 1873, he seemed improved in general health and strength, and when at my house not many months since, I felt a strong hope and belief that his persistent and unclouded mental activity, and his enthusiastic love of nature, by leading him into field and wood and obliging that out-door activity so essential to the valetudinarian, would ultimately conquer the disease he suffered, so that many years of usefulness might yet be spared to him. The news of his death came therefore as a shock. All who knew him will mourn his loss, and it can be said of few as it can of him that he never made an enemy—never did a wrong! Pray tender my heartfelt condolence to his bereaved parents and relatives, and believe me,

“Yours respectfully, C. V. RILEY.”

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